

order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today and as designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 664) mourning the passing of President Ronald Reagan and celebrating his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all the people of the world, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 664

Whereas President Ronald Reagan reminded us that our great Nation was founded and built by people with great dreams and the courage to take great risks;

Whereas President Reagan reminded his countrymen of the Nation's calling in world history: "From our forefathers to our modern day immigrants, we've come from every corner of the earth, from every race and every ethnic background, and we've become a new breed in the world. We're Americans, and we have a rendezvous with destiny.";

Whereas President Reagan championed freedom and democracy throughout the world, bringing courage to millions of people suffering the bondage of tyranny and oppression;

Whereas on June 12, 1987, President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate, the symbol of communism's brutal oppression, and demanded: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!";

Whereas on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall was torn down, signifying the end of the Cold War;

Whereas President Reagan, and his wife Nancy, brought dignity and respect to the White House and dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and to bettering the quality of life in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas on May 16, 2002, Congress bestowed the congressional gold medal in recognition of their service to the Nation;

Whereas Ronald Reagan's eloquence united Americans in times of triumph and tragedy;

Whereas on January 28, 1986, President Reagan comforted a grieving nation as Americans mourned the death of seven American astronauts who "slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God";

Whereas President Reagan spent the twilight of his life as he always lived, leading a fight against Alzheimer's disease with faith, courage, and dignity, with the greatest love for the Nation and eternal optimism for its future;

Whereas by opening his heart to the Nation about his affliction with Alzheimer's disease, President Reagan promoted greater awareness of this condition; and

Whereas President Reagan appealed to the best hopes of the American people, not their worst fears, and to their confidence rather than their doubts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest appreciation for the profound public service of President Ronald Reagan;

(2) expresses its condolences to Nancy Reagan and to Patti, Michael, Ron, and the entire Reagan family;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the record of President Reagan during this national period of remembrance and to remember always his encouraging words: "We have every right to dream heroic dreams."; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of President Reagan.

□ 1915

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the resolution shall be debatable on this legislative day for 2 hours, equally divided and controlled by the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees which may be extended for an additional hour on each demand of the Majority Leader or his designee.

The resolution shall be debatable on the legislative day of June 9, 2004, for 3 hours equally divided and controlled by the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees.

The Chair at any time may postpone further consideration of the resolution until a time designated by the Speaker.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), as the designee of the Majority Leader, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), as the designee to the Minority Leader, each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, through the years of having the opportunity to know President Ronald Reagan, one could go down many a pathway in recalling his greatness. My first recollection of Ronald Reagan, I can recall clearly I was lying on the living room floor, and he was giving this speech on behalf of Barry Goldwater. The remarks in that speech entitled, "A Time For Choosing," never to forget, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on Earth, or we will sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness." I will never forget rolling over on the floor and saying to my family, "This guy ought to be Governor of California." And, by golly, just 2 years later, he was: Governor Ronald Reagan, elected in 1966 by the people of California.

Two years after that, a group of seven Republican freshmen legislators were invited to the Governor's home for a little dinner. They had a set of card tables in the living room, a couple sat down at one card table, I sat on an extra chair, and, lo and behold, the Governor sat down beside me. The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) may remember that I was a bit more brash in those days than I choose to be now.

And so almost immediately, I raised the subject of interest to me to the then-Governor Reagan. I asked him what he thought about preschool and child care. It did not take 30 seconds for me to begin to understand that I had asked the right question, for Governor Reagan knew an awful lot more about preschool and child care than I ever thought of knowing. He and Nancy had been thinking about this subject for some time. And indeed, as a result of that beginning point of working together in this very special area of education, the Child Development Act was signed in 1972 by Governor Reagan and became the first major State quality day care programming that included health components and education components and involved parental responsibilities as well.

The Governor was way ahead of the curve, as one might see; for some 25 years later, Washington discovered the importance of child care.

Another illustration of an interesting side of the Governor who by many was considered to be some way out there, far out on the right; but quickly those who would observe carefully recognized that this Governor was looking out for the benefit of all people of California and because of that, shortly he became very well known as an environmental Governor. He joined quickly with Governor Laxalt of Nevada, and together hand in hand they literally saved Lake Tahoe.

A leader way ahead of his time, it was my privilege to spend so much time in those early days with Governor Ronald Reagan. At another time in this evening's discussion I would like to spend a moment discussing with all of you my first experience with Governor Reagan when he became President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to President Ronald Reagan. President Reagan has been a part of my entire political life. President Reagan got his start in politics when he was elected Governor in 1966. Two years later, I got my start in politics when I was elected to the California legislature. I served in the State legislature until 1974, the last year of Governor Reagan's term. And, of course, I served in the Congress of the United States for the entire 8 years of his Presidency.

I knew from those early days that President Reagan had remarkable political skills. He is known as the Great

Communicator and, truly, he was. President Reagan knew how to connect with people. And he could articulate values and resonate across America and around the world with his ideals. He was also likable and charming.

For many years, President Reagan was actually my constituent. Hollywood, the place and the industry associated with it, had a great impact on his life. It refined his communication skills and honed his sense of drama and delivery. And it gave him something that many people do not fully appreciate, an understanding that in America, with hard work and honest values, Hollywood endings really can come true.

President Reagan thought our Nation should be a shining example to the world. And under his leadership, we were really admired and respected around the world. He viewed America as a city on the hill, a beacon for freedom and a model for democracy.

And here is another thing many people do not fully appreciate: President Reagan was a pragmatic leader. He had strong convictions, but if he learned that those convictions were taking America in the wrong direction, he had the confidence and the wisdom to change course.

As everyone knows, President Reagan was afflicted with Alzheimer's disease in the last 10 years of his life. President Reagan struggled with this terrible condition with great dignity. And with great courage he and his wife Nancy shared his struggle with the American people. It is a true tragedy that this country lost the opportunity to have this elder statesman involved and seek his advice and leadership in the last years of his life.

I know that all of us in this body would like to find a fitting way to honor President Reagan's life. For my part, I can think of no better tribute than an accelerated effort to address the horrific disease known as Alzheimer's. Mrs. Reagan, the President's beloved wife, bravely spoke out about this just last month. In her moving words she said, "Science has presented us with a hope called stem cell research which may provide our scientists with many answers that for so long have been beyond our grasp. We have lost so much time already. I just really cannot bear to lose any more." Well, it is past time for us to seize the potential that Nancy Reagan identified. There could be no important or more lasting legacy to her husband.

America has lost a devoted citizen and a dedicated leader. I want Mrs. Reagan and the Reagan family to know they are in my heart and in my thoughts. President Reagan's passing is truly felt among Democrats and Republicans, by all Americans, and people of goodwill all around the world. We will certainly miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

President Reagan came to Washington at a moment when our country was in great malaise. Interest rates had risen as high as 21½ percent. Inflation was raging the country. Jobs were very, very difficult to come by. And in typical Ronald Reagan fashion, the President for whom the glass was always more than half full, he began setting forth policies that reduced interest rates, that impacted inflation, and created jobs. He set a stage for tomorrow that would lead us all to believe in America again and have new hope and opportunity within our country.

It is my privilege, Mr. Speaker, to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding this time to me and leading this important recognition today.

I also want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your special understanding of President Reagan from your work in the military serving alongside him in his days in the White House.

What all of those that served with the President or watched him from afar were able to see was how his optimistic leadership reinvigorated the American spirit and how it redefined the politics of his time. Born in a small town near the middle of America, this son of a shoe salesman rose to heights of gigantic proportion and lifted his countrymen along with him.

After facing his last great challenge with courage and patience, Ronald Reagan now takes his place where his vision is once again clear, his faith rewarded, and his storied sense of humor returned. He placed his faith in God along with economic and permanent freedom. And the world is a better place because of those beliefs.

President Reagan helped raise individuals up and helped tear down the Berlin Wall. He inspired us, and he was inspired by us. President Reagan's leadership inspired more current members of our conference on my side of the aisle than any other political figure in the 20th century.

When I became the majority whip in this Congress, I named the conference room in the whip's office the Reagan Room for the brief time I am privileged to make that designation. And I hope many of my colleagues come by that room during this week on the third floor of the Capitol and view the photographs there chronicling the life of this remarkable man from his days as a radio announcer to those that foreshadowed the end of the Soviet Union.

□ 1930

President Reagan said, We are a powerful force for good. With faith and courage we can perform great deeds and take freedom's next step, and we will.

America is taking freedom's next step, and we are doing so in large part because of President Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Today America's light shines a little dimmer because he is gone, but, Mr. Speaker, it shines much brighter than it would have if he had not been here. He made a difference in America. He made a difference in the world. Today people all over the world are remembering and recognizing that difference.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), distinguished member of the Committee on Government Reform, to offer his presentation on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues as we pay tribute to the life and legacy of President Reagan. A bigger-than-life screen actor and television personality, Ronald Reagan moved from being Governor of California in the 1960s to President of the United States and dominating American politics in the 1980s. He was the first President to be reelected to a second term since Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Media-made and media-presented, President Reagan got millions of Americans to feel proud of their Nation. America's 40-year Cold War with the Soviet Union cooled considerably and perhaps actually ended during Reagan's Presidency. Many Americans credit him with having achieved that significant outcome.

Born the son of a shoe salesman in small-town Illinois, President Reagan's impoverished but loving parents instilled in him a sense of optimism that carried him through college as an average student. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a sports broadcaster in Midwestern radio before landing a film contract with Warner Brothers, which took him to Hollywood in 1936.

Over the next 30 years, President Reagan made scores of films, including Army films produced during World War II. He hosted two popular television series and was actively engaged in politics as president of the Screen Actors Guild.

In the 1950s, President Reagan changed from being a Roosevelt New Deal Democrat to a conservative Republican. In 1966, he became Governor of California and was reelected in 1970. Using his popularity in California, he unsuccessfully challenged President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination in 1976. He tried again and won the nomination in 1980 and thereafter defeated the incumbent Democrat Jimmy Carter. With his 1984 reelection victory, President Reagan became the most politically successful Republican President since President Eisenhower.

In the last 7 years, as President Reagan battled Alzheimer's disease, our Nation went from having zero drugs for this devastating disease to today having five new prescriptive drugs to help manage and treat the progression of Alzheimer's. Today it is

even possible to diagnose Alzheimer's with more than 90 percent accuracy. It is clear that Alzheimer's does not discriminate on whom it affects, regardless of gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, political ideology or if one worked the fields, in the factories or in the Oval Office.

With now more than 4.5 million people suffering from this disease, the upsetting effects of Alzheimer's is growing faster than modern medicine can manage. This is only likely to become more complicated with the aging of the baby boomers, boosting the number of Alzheimer's patients to an astounding 11 to 16 million people by the middle of the century.

As a way to honor President Reagan, let us make the greatest commitment that we can to real investment in research for Alzheimer's disease and follow through with clinical trials to translate the research into treatments. We must now act to make the lives of all Alzheimer's patients more comfortable with a better quality of life, while hopefully being able to prevent this disease in the future.

Mr. President, as one might say in a western movie, you had a good ride and our country is proud to say, "Much obliged."

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY).

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

President Reagan's impact on America and the world is immeasurable. He ended the Cold War and restored America's confidence. His Republican administration rebuilt our economy with the help and support of a Democratic House of Representatives.

President Reagan achieved such successes because when you sat in a room with him, there could be over 1,000 people in the room, yet you felt like there was only the two of you, and his wonderful wit would put you at ease. That was a tremendous gift.

That is why some of his biggest political enemies were among his closest personal friends. It is why a staunch anti-Communist could negotiate with the President of the Soviet Union. President Reagan reached across and President Reagan connected with people.

President Reagan is now at rest. We mourn his passing, but we are grateful for the gifts he gave us: a safer world, strong economic base, and a renewed belief in America's greatness.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan will be laid to rest at his Presidential library in Simi Valley, California. It is where I began my political career as mayor and city councilman. It has been my home for more than 35 years.

President Reagan often spoke about a shining city on a hill. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is such a place. President Reagan will be laid to rest at the edge of a high hill where his

library stands. His grave overlooks the farmlands, ranches and chaparral of the Tierra Rejada Valley. On a clear day, one can see the Channel Islands in the Pacific Ocean more than 30 miles away. It is a fitting place for America's greatest son.

Mr. Speaker, it is the end of an era, but it is the beginning of a legacy that will last forever. We will miss him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today we remember a true leader, a statesman and a great man who led our country with dignity, with grace and with strength. President Reagan was the quintessential American who exemplified unbridled optimism, a strong sense of faith and the idea that our Nation was a true beacon for the world.

There is no doubt that among his greatest achievements was his resolve to end the Cold War so that other Nations could experience the glory of freedom and the power of democracy. His combination of political strength and personal appeal, his ability to communicate set the forces in motion for the walls of communism to crumble, and for this he will always be remembered.

However, President Reagan should also be remembered, especially in this House, for his willingness to fight in the political arena with dignity, with respect for his opponents, and his strong belief that democracy was for all of our citizens, even those with whom he might have disagreed. President Reagan exemplified civility and honor in an arena that is often lacking in both, and because of that he earned the goodwill not only of his supporters, but often of his friendly adversaries. In the end we remember a man, Ronald Reagan, not only as a great leader, but as a good and decent man.

My condolences and prayers are with his family and with his wife Nancy, who shared him with our country.

Mr. Speaker, we are all called by God for a special purpose with this turn at light that he gives us. Some nobility of purpose is embedded in each of us with that calling, and as it is the case with Ronald Reagan, there will be on his tombstone 1911 to 2004, but the most important thing on his tombstone will be the dash in between. For the fundamental call from God is always what will we do with the dash.

Ronald Reagan did great things with his dash. For those 93 years in that dash was actor, head of a union, broke down the barriers of communism, the Star Wars defense system, his legacy of rebuilding the Republican Party.

Yes, Ronald Reagan was a great man, and he, as so many of us, have heeded the call, and as I think of Ronald Reagan, I am reminded of the great prophet Isaiah who said in that great

conversation when God called and said, who will go for us and whom shall we send, that great prophet Isaiah said, at no hesitation, here I am, Lord, send me.

Ronald Reagan responded the same way. I can almost see it. When the Lord called and said, who will go for us and who will we send to perform that nobility of purpose in life that Ronald Reagan did, which is the legacy of his Presidency, I can see him getting to attention and saying, here I am, Lord, send me.

God bless Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, we are all going to talk about President Reagan, Commander-in-Chief Reagan, leader of the free world Reagan. Some of us were privileged to know him in a different context. My friend from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman, has talked about his relationship with him when he was Governor of California.

I knew him in a number of different contexts, and I was always amazed at one thing, and that was he was the same person regardless of the context in which you met him, worked with him and was led by him.

In 1974, I decided that I would run for public office. He was then in the last year of his governorship, and he decided to come to Bakersfield, and so I planned an event for the Governor. We decided that we would charge what seemed to be an appropriate amount, \$25 a head, and almost 500 people came to see the Governor. I had no doubts about why they were coming.

We picked him up at the airport, and when we got in the car, he started quizzing me about me, and so I was visiting with him. But as we got closer, I said, well, do you want to take just a little time now so that you can get ready for the event? He said, Bill, if I am not ready now, 5 minutes will not make any difference.

□ 1945

He was always prepared. He was always on time, whether it was a minor event or if it was a debate with other leaders of the world.

And you see him in a bunch of different contexts and you say, well, of course, because he was a movie star and he is supposed to carry himself. And the point I want to make, if I do not make any other point, is he was that way because of who he was, not because of what he did. Because, frankly, if you tried to write a script and went to Hollywood on Ronald Reagan's life, you would last about 2 minutes in the room. Because people are willing to suspend belief, but not that much.

And what I like most about the juxtaposition of Ronald Reagan and his

career, which was kind of molded out of the context that he found himself in, was that the American people were wise enough, first of all to choose him as Governor of California for the traditional two terms, had he chosen to run for a third term he probably could have gotten elected; and the American people chose him for two terms as President, a now constitutionally limited period of time. Were it not for that constitutional limit, he may have been elected again.

And so when you watch people recognizing Ronald Reagan as they pass the casket, as they did in California, many people will have an individual memory, perhaps a general shared one, and perhaps a personal one. For me, Ronald Reagan's life means that any American can do anything any American wants to do. For Ronald Reagan, the public person, it means he made sure that he set up a structure which allows any American to do whatever any American wants to do; and his justification and enabling of that is, he would tell you, because I did.

You are going to hear him called the Great Communicator a lot. What you also need to know was he was a great compromiser. It can be put no more clearly than a comment he made when he was Governor of California, because he became Governor with an enormous debt at that time for the State of California. California did not have a withholding tax, and he needed to create a front load for money to solve the problem that he was facing. He had, however, made a statement earlier that his feet were in concrete over not having a withholding tax. Once he looked at the options in front of him and he realized he did not have any options other than instituting a withholding tax, having worked with the legislature, he then went to the microphone and said, "That cracking sound you hear is the cement breaking away from my feet."

And so when you wonder why Ronald Reagan could get along with so many different people in so many stages of life, whether small or great, it was because Ronald Reagan was the same person regardless of the job the American people gave him. He was always prepared, he was always on time, and he was a very, very sincere man. He was also quite smart, in ways that many people never understand.

So what I want to do tonight is to just share briefly the memoirs of someone who, if you are looking for an example, he certainly stands out, not just in what he did but the way in which he lived his life and the way in which he recognized his condition later in life and the way in which he concluded his life. All of us should pause and remember that he was an amazing, amazing person. He was an American.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for yielding me this time. I am

particularly pleased that the gentleman from Texas is managing the time, because I think if Ronald Reagan were here, he would say, CHARLES STENHOLM was one of those who stood with me on principle, who believed that we needed to get this country moving, and believed that we needed to have sound policy; and CHARLES STENHOLM stood with me. And as the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) just related, for Ronald Reagan the concrete cracked again, frankly, when he viewed the program adopted and thought that perhaps some changes needed to be made.

Mr. Speaker, like every Member of this House, I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of former President Reagan, particularly, of course, his beloved wife, Nancy, and his children. What a wonderful example Nancy Reagan set for our country. Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan clearly loved one another deeply and cared for one another, and Nancy Reagan has shown extraordinary courage and fidelity not only throughout the course of their marriage but particularly in the course of Ronald Reagan's final illness.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan loved this Nation and served it with distinction; and he will ever be remembered for his humor, his grace, his irrepressible optimism which mirrored the American spirit and buoyed it in periods of difficulty.

The last decade, when this man who had lived life with such physical vigor slowly slipped away, was an especially cruel blow. However, let us be comforted today that he has been summoned to a far better place.

Having been elected to Congress just 4 months after he took office, and just 6 weeks after an assassin's bullet nearly claimed his life, I had a front-row seat during President Reagan's 8 years in Washington. He was a man I both liked and respected. I liked him for his warmth and for the respect that he accorded others, and I respected him for the honesty of his convictions and the intellectual integrity that he displayed in pursuing them.

After signing into law what was then the largest tax cut in American history in 1981, President Reagan had the fortitude to face fiscal reality, just as the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) reflected upon. His policies caused yawning deficits and spiraling debt, consequences that he subsequently tried to address, although not as successfully as I am sure he would have hoped. Without question, Ronald Reagan held strong ideological beliefs. But one of his real strengths was his willingness to put pragmatism above ideology, to make sure that his country had programs that were working.

I also remember him as a person who early in life committed to equality and justice for all, and later in life to the success of freedom and democracy around the world. I believed he was right in that endeavor, and like the

gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), supported his efforts to build up our defenses, to deploy those Persian and cruise missiles, to, yes, even provide for multiple warheads on the MX missile, and say to the Soviet Union, if you want to compete, we are prepared to compete; but we would rather seek peace together. And he had the courage to build up, and he had the courage to make peace.

While Democrats disagreed with and strongly opposed much of his domestic agenda, our political differences never hardened into paralyzing personal animosity on his side or on ours. We were blessed by the fact that we were led by two great Irishmen, Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill. They were friends. And they had a third friend, his name was Michel, Bob Michel, an extraordinary leader of this House. And they, together, believed that country was more important than partisanship and party.

For the most part, they worked together. On those matters that they disagreed on, they took their own separate ways. But when they could agree, they did. The Social Security reform of 1983 was probably the most stark example of that cooperative spirit. It was good for the country, it was good for Social Security, and they came together, worked together, and succeeded together.

That was due in great measure to the leadership styles and personalities of President Reagan and Speaker O'Neill. These two men, the most powerful political figures in our Nation in the 1980s, one a Republican, the other a Democrat, demonstrated to all Americans that our elected leaders could disagree politically without being disagreeable personalities or personally. They reminded all of us that cynicism and mean-spiritedness are inimical to American democracy, and that our real adversaries lie beyond our shores, not here.

The surest tribute that we can pay to Ronald Reagan today is to commit ourselves to recapture the generosity of spirit that always guided him. In a very real way, Ronald Reagan's life was the embodiment of the American Dream. Both President Reagan and President Clinton, like Harry Truman, gave credence to the promise that in America neither privileged birth nor economic advantage is necessary to enable one to become the President of the United States of America. It was, for them, and for millions to follow their example, the land of opportunity.

President Reagan's leadership renewed the conviction that the future would be better, better than the past, and that America's best days were still ahead. That is a philosophy that all of us should embrace and convey to our fellow citizens. I believe it is the case, Ronald Reagan believed it was the case, and may God bless his soul and comfort his beloved wife, Nancy.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California

(Mr. ROHRABACHER), who served Ronald Reagan as a part of his staff before coming to Congress.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, it is a blessing that Ronald Reagan did not die immediately after leaving office in 1989. In these last 16 years that we have had Ronald Reagan with us, it has given America a chance to take a look at who Ronald Reagan was and what he meant to our country. And now, with 16 years that have passed, we can look back and see what an enormous difference Ronald Reagan made not only to our lives as Americans but to the entire world.

Let me note that Ronald Reagan was 56 years old when I first met him, and that was when he was running for the first time for public office. He ran for public office for the first time when he was 56 years old. And all of these things we are talking about, a man who accomplished so much and changed the world for the better, happened after he was 56 years old. He had already had a successful life, a full career.

And he did come from a relatively poor family. I know his first job was being a lifeguard. That affected his way of looking at things his entire life. He saved 77 people's lives as a lifeguard. And having gotten to know him as President and also during his campaigns, I think he always had that consciousness, that he was there to save the day for the people who were in some type of a crisis.

He was a sports broadcaster, and he was a moderately successful film actor. But all of that seemed to be over when he was 50 years old. And then, when he was 56, he jumped into political life. Now, why did he do that? Because California was a mess in 1966.

□ 2000

And he came and stepped forward because he felt he had a contribution to make. He jumped into the political waters to save the day.

I was a youth volunteer in that first campaign, and I got to meet him personally, and it was one of the joys of my life.

Let me note that years later after I got finished with school, I became a journalist, and I covered Ronald Reagan's last 2 years as Governor as a journalist. I remember that he had a press conference one day, it was near the end of his term, where he was announcing the findings of his law and order task force. One of their findings was an expanded use of the death penalty. And just as I am now, I was then always trying to get to the heart of the matter and ask the tough questions, and I asked President Reagan, who was then Governor, well, how can you be in favor of expanding the use of the death penalty when you are a committed Christian? And, you know, he sat forward, and he leaned forward to the mike, he says, I take that question very seriously. I prayed about this, about using the death penalty more

frequently and taking people's lives. I have sought help. I have read the scripture, and I have talked to other people about this, and I have come to the conclusion that if we are executing people for revenge, that it is inconsistent with the principles that Jesus Christ taught us, but if we are executing murderers in order to deter people from killing other human beings, we are doing it then to save people, to save innocent people, and that is totally consistent with Christianity.

At that point Evelle Younger who was the attorney general of the State, reaches over and grabs the mike and says, oh, this religious and philosophical stuff does not mean anything. The voters of this State voted for the death penalty, and they are going to get it. Well, my opinion of Ronald Reagan's sword, I knew that he was a man who did not take these things lightly, a man of strong conviction, but a man who deeply cared about people enough to think about it and to pray about decisions like this. He was not just a great communicator, and I worked for him as a speechwriter for 7 years in the White House. He was, yes, someone who understood the fundamentals of communication, but that is not what made him great. He was not the great communicator. He was America's great leader. He had ideals that helped direct his decisions.

We have heard about his strong convictions. We know today that most people with strong convictions are not very pleasant to be around. When they talk about people with philosophies, there is a saying that you cannot change somebody's mind, and he will not change the subject. Ronald Reagan was a person who taught me that you can have strong principles and have a solid philosophy, but be a pleasant person and care about people at the same time. It was that type of humane approach that permitted Ronald Reagan to capture the hearts of the American people and inspire us.

When our country was in such terrible peril economically and in retreat internationally, and our spirit had been destroyed, people were not even waving the American flag back in the late 1970s, Ronald Reagan dove into the political waters again to save the day. And he saved us. He was the lifeguard who saved us, and he saved the world.

Jim Bruelte, a political person in California, noted on D-Day the American soldiers liberated half of Europe. Ronald Reagan liberated the other half of Europe and did it without firing a shot.

We live in a more prosperous country, a safer country, and hundreds of millions of people now live in relative freedom than if he would not have been here. We are so grateful to Ronald Reagan for having dove in to save us, and he did. He saved America, and he saved us personally.

I am now 56 years old, the same age Ronald Reagan was when he first entered politics. I am so grateful that he

spent those years of his life making this a better world for my children. I just had three children just 6 weeks ago today, and I am so grateful that he made it a better world for them.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER).

(Mr. ALEXANDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we devote this week to honor the memory and the contributions of our 40th President Ronald Reagan. My thoughts and prayers are with President Reagan's family and all of the Americans who grieve this week.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was a true patriot, committed to the ideals of a democratic Nation, and dedicated to maintaining the strength of America as a world power. His abilities as a strong leader and a communicator gave Americans confidence and strength during a time of economic hardship and struggling with the Soviet Union.

President Reagan once said, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he does not mind who gets the credit." We should follow this example and remember that public service is not about partisan battles or taking credit, it is about serving the American people to the best of our ability.

I am honored to be here in Washington during this week of memorial services. I am grateful to all of those involved with arranging the safety and logistics during a week when thousands of Americans will journey to our Nation's Capital to pay their respects to President Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, as we face a new decade and new challenges, let us honor the life and contributions and remember the debt of gratitude we owe our 40th President, Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ronald Reagan became President in 1981 after an election in 1980. At that point in our history, our defenses had been reduced to such significant levels, all of us were concerned about the future of America's ability to defend itself. Indeed, there were great leaders who recognized the importance of building our defenses. Among those who have come here since President Reagan was with us is the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, we rise to honor and mourn Ronald Reagan.

But first I would like to thank Mrs. Nancy Reagan. The wisest of men knows it takes a good woman to make a good man, and what a good wingman

she has been, both in sickness and in health. This Nation also owes Nancy Reagan a debt of gratitude; both of them good and decent people. Ronald Reagan was one of the most respected and effective Presidents in American history.

Mr. Speaker, the Irish have a toast, and it goes like this. It is to those who support Ronald Reagan, and everybody lifts their glass; to those who may support Ronald Reagan, and everybody lifts their glass; and to those that will never support President Ronald Reagan, may God strike them in their shins so we shall know them by their limping. But there are not many of those, Mr. Speaker.

President Reagan said, you know, the United States was never meant to be the second best Nation. We set our sights high for the stars, and we are going for the gold. He said that back in the 1980s. He came to the job with one underlying goal, and that was freedom. Freedom for you, Mr. Speaker, and people all over the world, much to the same challenges that we have today; the freedom in Bosnia, in Kosovo, in Afghanistan and in Iraq, and with the United Nations signing a resolution today following in suit much as Ronald Reagan guided us through troublesome times when he was President.

Ronald Reagan restored the economy of a double-digital inflation, interest rates the same thing. He gave this Nation tax relief, much as President Kennedy and President Bush. He increased the coffers by three times the amount. Unfortunately, it was Congress that spent a lot of that money.

He followed his pledge to restore our military. Ronald Reagan believed in peace through strength, and I think it showed through. He eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons. He is responsible for bringing down the Berlin Wall, ended the Cold War, and challenged governments to have a new way of life to bring freedom to their people, also a task that we face today in this body and in this Nation.

For his imprint on history, for his legacy which will be felt for generations to come, this Nation owes President Reagan and Nancy Reagan a debt of gratitude.

The President's many legacies. Navy's newest nuclear carrier, the USS *Ronald Reagan*, will reside in San Diego. That aircraft carrier will travel all over the world, much as Ronald Reagan did, and serves as a symbol of the respect and elegance of his family. Throughout his political career, President Reagan always concluded his campaign in San Diego. He called it his lucky city. We feel fortunate that he considered San Diego so. It is only fitting that this great new shining city on the hill, San Diego, will be called the home of the USS *Ronald Reagan*, our latest and newest nuclear aircraft carrier.

Mr. Speaker, we bid Ronald Reagan adieu and thank the Reagan family for what they have given to this Nation.

God bless you, Nancy Reagan, and your family and the President.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, my friend and colleague, and also thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for allowing us to come at this time.

I imagine this time is the reason why so many of us, in fact I would say this entire House, cherishes this body and cherishes this institution, because it allows us to come at a time like this and shed our Democratic and Republican labels and simply approach this tribute as Americans. I would imagine that is what these times, although sad, allow us to do.

I am proud as an American to come forward and to salute an American President, and to be able to join the millions of Americans mourning the passing of President Ronald Reagan and celebrate his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all of the people of the world.

Protest has its place, protest is good in life, but protest has no place in death, and so this opportunity is to acknowledge the principles by which this President lived and stood for during his Presidency. The love that President Reagan had for this Nation was infectious to the point that it reflected on everyone who listened to him, here in America and abroad.

Even when his actions did not agree with the policies and initiatives of many of us who wear a different political hat, he maintained himself with integrity and engaged in honest and open debate. We have heard repeatedly over these last couple of days that despite partisan disagreements, former President Reagan followed the tenet that at 5 p.m., we are no longer Democrats or Republicans; rather, we are Americans, families and friends.

I am reminded of the stories told about he and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, who shared in their Irish heritage a bit of good conversation and maybe a little bit of drink.

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The differences may have been real; but because of the way President Reagan led, he taught us that there is a big difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship. As the Commander in Chief, he was the voice of America in imparting both good news and bad news. As we mourned the loss of our brave astronauts in the Challenger tragedy, it was President Reagan who reminded us, "Nothing ends here. Our hopes and our journeys continue." We in Texas at that time appreciated his strong leadership and that in fact even in spite of the Challenger tragedy at that time, we would prevail and we would go forward.

President Ronald Wilson Reagan was an American who will always be re-

membered. He will be forever remembered for the warmth and the respect with which he accorded others. Furthermore, our thoughts and prayers are with Nancy and his children at this difficult time.

Strong beliefs and a love of our country are the only way to bring this country forward as we face a costly and difficult war in Iraq and a budget that is struggling to survive. Strength and leadership is what we need now. Strength and leadership will be required to bring this Nation back to the standards by which we have always been known. I believe it is appropriate to read his famous words: "We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look."

President Reagan himself admitted that he was an optimist and he believed that this Nation had an optimistic future, and so he was always able to rise to the occasion and share words of encouragement. President Reagan always stressed that America is a "can do" country. I would say to you that we Democrats agree. We can and will get back on the right track, largely through his legacy of integrity and hard work. With strong leadership and a real commitment to confronting the problems facing American families, we can improve upon our weaknesses. Optimism, the true challenge for all Americans, something President Reagan has left as his legacy.

He once said, "The house we hope to build is not for my generation but for yours. It is your future that matters. And I hope that when you are my age, you will be able to say as I have been able to say, we lived in freedom, we lived lives that were a statement, not an apology."

It was interesting to hear over these last couple of days the number of young people, then young people, who were amazed that they had the opportunity to work in President Reagan's administration. Sixty-nine years old when he took office, it seemed that he gravitated toward young people. Now being able to recite their wonderful experiences again, a tribute to a man who had a great history.

We will always remember him as the man who tore the Iron Curtain down. He did it with a kind of leadership and integrity but sternness and determinedness. I will simply say no one will ever forget him challenging Mr. Gorbachev by saying, "Open this gate" and, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." We are better for it. He did it with a sternness but also with an attitude of peace.

I am grateful also for the shining example of the wonderful relationship between him and his wife Nancy, the great love that they shared and the fact that they were married for some 52 years. Might I share with you some words that he wrote in 1983 on their 31st wedding anniversary as he was riding on Air Force One, and might I

commend to you Nancy's book, "I Love You, Ronnie," published in 2000, but hear these words. He wrote, "I more than love you, I'm not whole without you. You are life itself to me. When you are gone I'm waiting for you to return, so I can start living again." That is a true testament to the value of marriage and partnership and they did it unabashedly and without fear.

Mrs. Reagan wrote in 1989, "Some of the reporters who wrote about me felt that our marriage was at least partly an act. But it wasn't and it isn't." And I believe her.

Finally, in 1998 she told *Vanity Fair* magazine: "Our relationship is very special. We were very much in love and still are. When I say my life began with Ronnie, well, it's true. It did. I can't imagine life without him."

Mr. Speaker, I started by saying that is why I cherish this institution, because it allows us now to come together again, not wearing any partisan hat but simply saying that we are Americans. I do not know if she would mind me saying this, but my daughter is now 24, I remember her as a small girl, very small, and she always used to refer to Ronald Reagan as the grandfather. I had to kind of clarify that for her, but it was out of the mouth of a child that described him as such.

And so I simply leave you with the idea of why we have come today to be able to honor this American President. It is because he did leave us with a sense of optimism and an ability to go forward, to look at the troubles that we might be facing both to the left and to the right and forward and back but yet to say that we are determined to succeed. I would only say that in his passing, let us maintain the legacy of optimism for this country. "We are the showcase of the future. And it is within our power to mold that future, this year and for decades to come. It can be as grand and as great as we make it. No crisis is beyond the capacity of our people to solve, no challenge too great," the words of Ronald Reagan on January 5, 1974.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I simply say, farewell, farewell. And though we say farewell to a great and wonderful American President, his legacy will live on that America's future is founded in our optimism and our belief in freedom and democracy and certainly this day our understanding that we all are Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution offered by my colleague, Representative LEWIS of California, to mourn the passing of President Ronald Reagan and to celebrate his service to the people of the United States and his leadership in promoting the cause of freedom for all the people of the world.

The love that President Reagan had for this Nation was infectious to the point that it reflected on everyone who listened to him—here in America and abroad. Even when his actions did not agree with the policies and initiatives of my Democratic colleagues, he maintained himself with integrity and engaged in honest and open debate.

Despite partisan disagreements, former President Reagan followed the tenet that "at 5 p.m., we are no longer Democrats or Republicans; rather we are Americans, friends, and family."

The differences were real, but because of the way President Reagan led, he taught us that there is a big difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship.

As the Commander-in-Chief, he was the voice of America in imparting both good news and bad news. As we mourned the loss of our brave astronauts in the *Challenger* tragedy, it was President Reagan who reminded us that "Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue."

President Ronald Wilson Reagan was an American icon. He will be forever remembered for the warmth and the respect he accorded others. Furthermore, our thoughts and prayers are with Nancy and his children at this difficult time.

Strong beliefs and a love of our country are the only way to bring this country forward as we face a costly and difficult war in Iraq, the largest budget deficit in history, escalating health care costs, and two million jobs lost over the past three years. Strength and leadership will be required to bring this Nation back to the standards by which we have always been known.

We must follow his famous words: "We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look."—January 20, 1981

President Ronald Reagan always stressed that America is a "can do" country. We Democrats agree. We can and will get back on the right track, largely through his legacy of integrity and hard work. With strong leadership and a real commitment to confronting the problems facing American families, we can improve our weaknesses.

The President once said: "The house we hope to build is not for my generation but for yours. It is your future that matters. And I hope that when you are my age, you will be able to say as I have been able to say: We lived in freedom. We lived lives that were a statement, not an apology."

So when we return to work next week, I hope this House will be inspired by the leadership of Ronald Reagan instead of mired in the partisan politics and a lack of integrity that have too often affected our work as of late. We should be inspired by his patriotism and devotion to our country. Moreover, we should remember his faith, his optimism, and his unwavering commitment to his convictions as we do the work of the American people.

#### THE SOVIET UNION AND THE COLD WAR

President Reagan had a calm speaking voice and forceful diction that earned him the title of "the Great Communicator." This task was surely the work of a leader of fortitude and commitment to the betterment of our diplomatic relations with that Nation.

Mr. Reagan's efforts and tenacity contributed greatly to the end of the Cold War. His policies included strong support of the U.S. military and the doctrine of "peace through strength."

In a few days it will be exactly seventeen years to the day that President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate in what was then West Berlin, Germany, in which he famously proclaimed: "General Secretary Gorbachev, if

you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalization: Come here to this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" The speech was made to the free people of West Berlin, but it was clearly audible on the East side of the Wall, and soon those words would help make it possible that the people of East and West Berlin could finally hear each other. For all of his achievements and acclaim, I am certain that President Reagan's greatest accomplishment will be the demise of the Soviet Union. As Margaret Thatcher said, he was the man who "won the cold war without firing a shot."

The world President Reagan faced when he came in to office in 1981 was very different from the world we see today. Today the United States is the unquestioned superpower of the world, but two decades ago this world was dominated by the struggle between two superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. President Reagan came in to office with his own vision on how this great struggle could be dealt with. He succeeded in maintaining the stand-off with the Soviet Union so that the world did not have to witness the consequences of a brutal nuclear war. He fought the Soviet Union indirectly wherever they sought to threaten the freedom of the world's people. In Afghanistan he mobilized our allies and our resources in the region to ensure that the Soviet's would not have a stranglehold on the continent of Asia. The Reagan Doctrine succeeded in a time where grave danger not only threatened our Nation, but indeed the fate of the world as we know it.

President Reagan used his great communication skills to help end the Cold War without the necessity of another World War. As with his speech at the Brandenburg Gate, President Reagan inspired people throughout the world to believe that freedom and prosperity were indeed possible.

President Reagan made Americans believe again that our Nation was the greatest on Earth and that we would indeed be victorious. Finally, his words made the leadership of the Soviet Union believe that they were fighting from a side of weakness, that the good of our beliefs and our national system would prevail. His words were inspirational two decades ago, but today they have been proven true. The Soviet Union no longer threatens our world, and we must always pay tribute to President Reagan for that accomplishment.

#### REAGAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH WIFE NANCY

At a time when war and bloodshed are one of the biggest thoughts on the minds of Americans, the history of President Reagan's relationship with his wife is a refreshing thought that has restored a feeling of compassion in our hearts.

Relationships—whether they be diplomatic, spousal, or platonic, have not been placed in the greatest light as of late in America. We have been marred by accounts of human rights abuse and other examples of a disregard for the rights and personhood of our neighbors.

In contrast, the relationship between Ronald and Nancy Reagan was one of the greatest love stories in U.S. presidential history. The two were utterly devoted to each other, and Nancy was said to have been a key adviser and confidante during her husband's two-term presidency from 1981 to 1989. Though they were married 52 years, Nancy has told with

great pain how her husband did not recognize her during the final years of his struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Nancy, who was herself a Hollywood starlet in the 1940s and '50s, said it was virtually love at first sight when she met Mr. Reagan in 1949 when he was president of the Screen Actors' Guild. President Reagan left messages of love for his wife at the White House and wrote a constant stream of love letters; some were published in Nancy's book "I Love You, Ronnie," published in 2000. No matter where he was in the world, he made sure he wrote to his wife.

In 1983, on the 31st anniversary of their wedding, the President was on Air Force One when he wrote: "I more than love you, I'm not whole without you. You are life itself to me. When you are gone I'm waiting for you to return, so I can start living again."

At official engagements, including even his swearing-in, the couple sometimes embarrassed their staff by just gazing at each other. In her 1989 autobiography, Mrs. Reagan wrote: "Some of the reporters who wrote about me felt that our marriage was at least partly an act. But it wasn't, and it isn't." Finally, in 1998 she told *Vanity Fair* magazine: "Our relationship is very special. We were very much in love and still are. When I say my life began with Ronnie, well, it's true. It did. I can't imagine life without him."

#### CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, again, I support Mr. LEWIS' resolution saluting a leader whose influence and positive legacy will live on with not only the American people but the entire international community. Thank you, Mr. President, and may you rest in peace. May your family find strength and courage through these very difficult days.

I conclude now by reciting some of President Reagan's spirited words to us as Americans:

The house we hope to build is not for my generation but for yours. It is your future that matters. And I hope that when you are my age, you will be able to say as I have been able to say: We lived in freedom. We lived lives that were a statement, not an apology.

The challenge of statesmanship is to have the vision to dream of a better, safer world and the courage, persistence, and patience to turn that dream into reality.—March 8, 1985

We have every right to dream heroic dreams. Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look.—January 20, 1981

We are the showcase of the future. And it is within our power to mold that future—this year and for decades to come. It can be as grand and as great as we make it. No crisis is beyond the capacity of our people to solve; no challenge too great.—January 5, 1974

Again, farewell, Mr. President. May your optimism live on.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the eloquence of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle reflect the best of Ronald Reagan. His leadership indeed recognized that there was little partisanship when you were really working towards solving problems for America's people.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, some of my first impressions of Ronald Reagan

were back in the 1950s when I was yet in grammar school, and I observed him as he hosted the "General Electric Theater." And then again I remember him just after graduating from high school in 1964 when he campaigned and he spoke out for Barry Goldwater. Ronald Reagan stood for ideals that simply were not being expressed anyplace else.

The appropriately named Reagan Revolution was precisely that. He was one of the main reasons I ran for political office. In the late 1970s, we heard our leaders talk about lowering expectations and the good times are over and that our Nation is in a, quote, general malaise. This was mirrored in high inflation that reached 10 to 12 percent, unemployment rates that were over 10 percent or more, and a prime interest rate that reached as high as 21.5 percent.

But then in stepped Ronald Reagan saying America could do better and America would do better. When Ronald Reagan said it, you believed it. His vision of the shining city on the hill gave hope to countless millions of Americans. Back then I, as a small business owner who grew up on a ranch, the American dream appeared endangered by high taxes and big government. In California, property taxes were doubling and tripling. With Ronald Reagan, there was someone we could rally around. His hope, his direction, and his moral clarity gave us all renewed energy. Ronald Reagan had the great ability to say what so many of us were thinking, what we were thinking about our national budget, about our national defense, about taxes; and, yes, about a better America.

The first time I ever met Ronald Reagan was in 1980 when I was running for the State Assembly in California and I journeyed to Simi Valley to get my picture taken with him. I can remember growing up hearing my mother talking about President Franklin Roosevelt, how she would listen to President Roosevelt on the radio during the Great Depression and during World War II. President Roosevelt gave hope to her generation. Ronald Reagan was to my generation what FDR was to my parents.

In Congress I had the privilege to meet Ronald Reagan six or seven times. Just being around President Reagan was inspiring. He lit up the room. To those of us who believed strongly in the American dream, in traditional values and the Judeo-Christian faith, Ronald Reagan was indeed a shining light in the city when there seemed to be none. His spirit will live on in the hearts of Americans. He was truly one of our Nation's greatest Presidents.

Ronald Reagan, thank you, thank you, for all you have done for me. Thank you, thank you, for all you have done for our great Nation.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. I thank my friend from Texas for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in joining my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in mourning the loss of President Reagan. I did not agree with the President on every issue, but there were three values that he exuded which I do share deeply: first, a respect for the democratic process and the building of consensus to move us forward and to make us safer; secondly, a fundamental belief in a strong military and a strong defense; and, third, as we have heard before, a boundless optimism about America's capacity and our potential and our role in making the world safe for democracy.

I never had the privilege of personally meeting President Reagan, but I did work here in Congress during his administration for a former Member of Congress, and I have a sense that even tonight, President Reagan and former Speaker Tip O'Neill are looking down upon this House with rather wry and proud smiles wishing us the best as we join together, as they join together to move our country not to the left, not to the right but forward, and they guide us not from the left, not from the right, they guide us from above.

Several months ago, I had the privilege of participating in an issues forum in New York with Ronald Reagan, Jr. Tonight my thoughts and prayers are with him and the entire Reagan family as they mourn the loss of a father and a husband and as America mourns the loss of a President.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset I think it is extraordinarily appropriate that the gentleman, the former mayor of Simi, California, the home of the Ronald Reagan Library and what will be the final resting place for Nancy and Ronald Reagan, is presiding over this institution at this moment. I would also like to thank my friend, the true dean of our California congressional delegation, for yielding me this time.

A generation was inspired by Ronald Reagan is what we have been hearing, but it was really a generation and then some inspired by Ronald Reagan. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) heard Ronald Reagan's speech in behalf of Barry Goldwater in 1964. Two years later, Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of California, and 2 years after that the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) was elected to the California State Assembly, serving 6 of the 8 years that Ronald Reagan was Governor of California. In fact, he is the only Republican Member here who did serve while Ronald Reagan was Governor of California. He went on to inspire many others. I am among them.

I was pleased this morning to be able to include in the RECORD very thoughtful remarks that were provided by a great American, George Shultz, who Sunday afternoon read his statement to me and I read it into the RECORD this morning, and I would like to commend it to my colleagues because it talks about the vision and the perspective that Ronald Reagan offered in a wide range of areas. Ronald Reagan made it very clear that the Republican Party is the party of ideas. We constantly hear about Ronald Reagan being the Great Communicator, but he had a message to communicate. Members on both sides of the aisle have talked about that message.

To me it embraced four very simple points: his commitment to a free economy, limited government, a strong national defense, and personal freedom. Those are the bases from which Ronald Reagan made his decisions on public policy issues, but he had those deeply rooted principles. And because they were so deeply rooted, he was able to communicate them extraordinarily well. Why? Because it came right from the heart. It came right from his heart.

We have heard a lot of very serious statements made about Ronald Reagan; but, of course, one of the most memorable things as people talked about his ability to communicate was his ability to communicate with that amazing sparkle, that twinkle in his eye. There were some wonderful things that he said that were able to, in fact, break the ice and really entertain all of us. Remember, it was Ronald Reagan who said, "Hard work never killed anybody, but I figured, why take the chance?" It was Ronald Reagan who after he had been hit by that bullet, right up Constitution here at the Washington Hilton when the statement was made to him shortly thereafter that the government was working as usual and he looked up and said, "Why would that make me happy?"

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There was, of course, his last speech which really stuck with me. It was on February 3 of 1994, and the Republican National Committee was having a dinner over here at the Pension Building, and Ronald Reagan was obviously quite elderly then, and the speech was delivered literally months before he wrote his famous letter in November of that year to the American people stating that he had Alzheimer's. So when he stood up at this meeting, I remember that Bill Clinton had been elected President of the United States the year before, and we as Republicans were gathering, we were poised to win our majority, and Ronald Reagan stood up without a great deal of strength as he got up for this speech.

He stepped up to the lectern, and he looked out at the audience, and he said, "Well, I flew into town today to give this speech this evening, and as we came in, we circled the White House, and as I looked out the window, I

looked down there, and there was everything just as I remembered it, the south lawn, the rose garden, David Gergen," who was at that moment working for President Bill Clinton. And we knew then that even though the President was obviously not in the most robust of health, that sparkle continued. He still had that amazing wonderful sense of humor.

I see my friend from San Diego Mr. Lowery here on the House floor. I was very pleased to, along with Bill Lowery and 51 others, be part of the Reagan Revolution. We came here to the House of Representatives, elected in November of 1980, and we made Ronald Reagan an honorary member of our class in 1980, and that is because he was leader of the revolution that brought all of us here and allowed us to vigorously pursue those goals that we shared in common.

We stand on his shoulders. George W. Bush stands on his shoulders. The similarities, to me, are so striking. The "ism" that Ronald Reagan stood up to was communism. The "ism" that George W. Bush is standing up to is terrorism. Ronald Reagan had broad, across-the-board tax cuts to stimulate economic growth. That is exactly what we have done. He did it in 1981. George W. Bush has started it in 2001. The party of ideas is strong and vibrant. It is doing extraordinarily well, and it is the vision that Ronald Reagan put forward.

And I thank my friend for taking this time, and I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are joining in this very important recognition of one of our Nation's greatest leaders.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just nostalgia that makes us remember President Ronald Reagan especially so fondly upon the occasion of his death. Politics, ideology, geography aside, there is a mark of leadership and charisma which undeniably stamps some men and women.

Ronald Reagan was one of those men whose leadership was felt by all who encountered him. When President Reagan first came to office, he quickly understood that enacting his economic agenda would require bipartisan support in Congress, which was under Democratic control, 242-192 and 1 absent. It took 52 bipartisan votes to enact anything, and President Reagan understood that.

I met with the President on several occasions as he sought to build that bipartisan coalition to pass his legislation. I met with President Reagan one on one in the Oval Office as well as in Air Force One, and for a second-termer in 1981 that was pretty tall cotton for a Jones County cotton farmer.

In 1981, I was just in my second term and was a member of the conservative Democratic forum better known as the Boll Weevils, the precursor to today's Blue Dogs. In the very first month Reagan was in office, he had to pass

into law an increase in the debt limit, and so he invited me to meet with him. Now, mind you, this was the first major piece of legislation of the Reagan administration. In the past, prior to President Reagan's being elected, Republicans had always opposed increasing the debt limit. Republicans had denounced Democrats for voting to increase the debt limit. So here was the first Republican President in many years coming to ask conservative Democrats for support in passing this very thing into law, something members of his own party had opposed on many occasions in the past.

We had a lengthy talk. The twinkle in the eye that many of those who had known him much better from California were there, and we finally struck a deal. We had an understanding that if the President could deliver 100 votes from Republicans, then we would do our best to deliver the necessary Democratic votes. President Reagan more than held up his end of the bargain. He ultimately delivered 150 Republican votes. So in the spirit of bipartisanship and on a very tough issue, Reagan successfully secured the votes he needed, from Democrats and Republicans, and got the increase in the debt limit, just as he and we needed it.

I was proud to have several opportunities to work with the President in the months and years ahead to build bipartisan coalitions, especially on his economic agenda. I still proudly display a picture in my home in Abilene, Texas, of President Reagan signing the 1981 tax bill. I got one of the pens and one I treasure.

Reagan had very strong principles and very strong values. We know what they were. But he also understood that in order to govern, it was important to find a middle ground. And I was lucky enough to be in the middle of many of those compromises.

One of his greatest strengths was his ability to communicate, a skill that he used to great effect when courting votes in Congress. His courting of Members of Congress was the best of any President I have served with, and I have now been privileged to serve with five. If the Members can imagine a second-termer sitting in the Roosevelt Room in the White House talking about some issues with the President's Cabinet members and others and having the President walk in unannounced and put his hands on his shoulder; some telephone calls that we had many times when there was a vote and the President had to work the phones like no President that I have seen since, rounding up the votes, and he was very effective at doing that.

President Reagan's private and public demeanor was the same. What one saw was what one got. That is the mark of a great leader.

Ronald Reagan was a very decent man, and he understood how he could use his office to make a difference in countless lives. This aspect of his personality was always very clear to me

because it was this decency, this understanding of the power of the office that gave me the most rewarding opportunity I had to work with President Reagan.

The context was very personal. In May of 1983, I was contacted by the grandfather of Ashley Bailey, a baby girl in Abilene, Texas, who needed a liver transplant to survive. At that time organ donations and organ transplants were not as common as now, and the organ donation system was not organized to the extent it is today.

I spoke to President Reagan's folks about it to ask for his help in getting the baby girl a new liver. Shortly after receiving my letter, President Reagan used his weekly radio address to publicize Ashley's situation and encourage all Americans to fill out organ donor cards. He also called Ashley's mother, Annette.

Unfortunately, the President's plea did not result in finding a liver in time to save Baby Ashley, but it did end up saving the lives of dozens of other babies who needed liver transplants. President Reagan later started a national organ donor awareness program, which led to the designation of National Organ Donation Awareness Week every April. To this day I consider this one of the highlights of my 25 years in Congress.

Reagan knew how to disagree without being disagreeable, rise above politics, and these qualities, unfortunately, are rare today. President Reagan and House Speaker Tip O'Neill, the Massachusetts liberal, were good friends who got along very well during their years of service together. They never lost their philosophical convictions, and they never let those philosophical convictions hijack their understanding that America's democracy requires respect for all opinions and a practical determination to work out our differences for the good of the country.

President Reagan spoke of hope and a better tomorrow. He reminded us that we live in the greatest country in the world, and he made us believe it and believe in ourselves. He believed that we, as Americans, had a special duty to promote peace and freedom for the rest of the world. He always told us that for America, the best was yet to come.

It is good for all of us to remember Ronald Reagan's optimism, his kindness, and his cordiality. As we remember this great man this week, it would do us good to remember how we should behave today and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on this second week of June, 17 years ago, President Ronald Reagan stood in the then-divided city of Berlin and called on So-

viet President Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall." Then, as perhaps now, critics did what they so often do. They cast aside the genuineness of his statement and, in fact, said that his speech was a publicity ploy. The Soviets and East Germans called it an infringement of East German sovereignty, an unwarranted meddling by the American President.

Two years later the wall came down.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was a leader with the foresight and strong conviction to get things done. He believed in America so much that he made America believe in itself again. He valued freedom, especially for those who had none. He understood that for America to be great, it first had to be good. He understood that America's problems, the malaise of the years preceding his Presidency, were simply America's not understanding how great it was and how great it could be.

Mr. Speaker, I was just a soldier during the period leading up to Mr. Reagan's becoming President Reagan, but I was a businessman starting a business from scratch when President Reagan came to office, and I recognized overnight that this was a special time to be an American, a time when we had a President who was saying that an American hero was somebody who took chances, who made a difference for the world, but particularly somebody who cared enough to work those extra hours and to care enough about his country.

Ronald Reagan knew America. He knew what was right about our Nation. What was right about our Nation and what was right about America would set the world in a better direction. Ronald Reagan led America, and the rest of the world became a freer place. Under his leadership we headed toward more than 400 million people in 27 countries finding a freedom they did not have. Today the soldiers of some of those democracies now fight side by side in Iraq and Afghanistan.

President Reagan showed us that our freedom and our determination can tear down walls.

Many Speakers will come here tonight, and they will talk of how profoundly President Reagan affected them, and I would be no different, but perhaps I can be slightly different tonight by saying that the only way to honor President Reagan's legacy is to take it to the next step. Today we are trying to do that for people in the Arab and Muslim world, and we have not finished that job. Today Communist China still denies rights to the people of its own country and is attempting to stifle the freedom and independence of Hong Kong. Today Cuba, to our south, is still a Communist nation, having little or no respect for the rule of law and for its people.

All of these and more need to be part of the American struggle because, Mr. Speaker, only if we determine that America's greatness will be in our willingness to set a course for the world in

a positive way, not to dominate, but, in fact, to liberate, I think that is the legacy that Mr. Reagan would want.

And if I can take a personal liberty on behalf of Mrs. Reagan, I believe that continuing to look for a cure to the terrible illness that plagued President Reagan for his last 10 years of life and promote and continue stem cell research consistent with what this body has passed would also be a tremendous addition to the Reagan legacy.

□ 2045

I am determined to work for both of these, and I ask this body to take those steps to free those who were not freed under President Reagan, and to commit itself to the research to end the terrible illness that the Reagan family has suffered under for 10 long years.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to mix in with the Californians tonight.

I think like most of us, we all have our own different, but very similar, inspirations from President Reagan. I first heard about Ronald Reagan probably around the dinner table when I was a kid when he was Governor of California and when he first decided to run for President. But I had grown up in an era that was pretty difficult. I grew up thinking assassinations were normal, remembering the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy; that government corruption was normal, remembering Watergate; and that a failure of government to properly serve its people was normal. Very high inflation, for example.

But I remember also the things that my dad and my mom and my grandfather, who was an immigrant, told me about America. They were patriotic people. Ronald Reagan was a patriotic man. And I heard his message, and it resonated with me, because it was something that I had always heard at home, but, unfortunately, had not seen much in practice in government. I became interested, and, as I guess somewhat of a precocious seventh-grader, wrote an editorial in my middle school newspaper supporting Ronald Reagan for President. He did not win that time, but it was not because I did not try. But that legacy and what he stood for stuck with me.

My family paid attention. I was very fortunate. Our normal dinner conversation often dealt with politics. So when I turned 18 in 1980, Ronald Reagan was running for President, and I volunteered. I found out that politics is a means of achieving a greater good and could be respected. I was hooked. He showed for us the America that we all knew could exist. It was the America that my parents believed in. It was the America we knew we could get back.

Ronald Reagan said, it is not my intention to do away with government, it

is rather to make it work. Make it work with us, not over us; to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it. It must foster productivity, not stifle it. Government is to walk with us. That is the most important thing, and it is important because it is the American dream.

After 10 years of volunteering on campaigns, and after Ronald Reagan was elected that first time, through law school, through the private practice of law, it led me to take part in the process in a big way, to dream big dreams, and to take some risks. So at 28 I ran for the State senate, unseated an incumbent, and had the opportunity to incur the same dream.

Ronald Reagan said America is too great for small dreams. There are many of us here in Congress today who agree with him. Let us in government remember him and his legacy and act on that legacy.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I could not feel more strongly than I do about the gentlewoman's remarks. Indeed, one of the wonderful things that has happened in recent years in the House is the advent of young women like this stepping up to the plate, running for Congress, and making a big difference in the People's House.

It is my honor, Mr. Speaker, to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I came to the United States Congress in 1981, the same year President Reagan was sworn in as our President. I examined the brochures that he ran on and looked at the brochures that I ran on, and I found them to be almost identical: jobs and security, and jobs meant dignity; a strong military; a concern for the unborn; strong second amendment rights. All of those things we totally agreed upon. At that time I was a Democrat. I was a member of the Boll Weevils and the Conservative Democratic Forum.

We have heard others speak here before us tonight and know of the respect and admiration that we all had for President Reagan. I had the pleasure of going out to Camp David with him and spent times and hours, and had the opportunity for discussions, and we discussed everything from the problems of the day to his times in the movies. He was a good, down-to-Earth guy that you could talk to.

I just know that he knew of our needs. He knew that our military had atrophied away. He knew that we needed to have an injection there, and that United Airlines could employ one of our pilots the minute they graduated and had spent their time. He knew that the enlisted men, 35 percent of them were eligible for food stamps, and he knew something had to be done there. I think he is responsible for the strong position that we have, the strong financial position we have, the strong geopolitical position we have in the world.

I know that I have had a lot of occasions to visit with him. Jim Baker was in his Cabinet at that time, and Jim and I had been longtime friends when I was 10 years in the Texas Senate. I knew Jim Baker, Hines Baker, Rex Baker and all of his folks. That gave me access to President Reagan. George Bush, I had been a Navy pilot with George Bush. He was his Vice President, so I had access to the President, and I enjoyed that access, enjoyed visits with him over there.

One time I went in and the President said, Congressman HALL, what would it take to get you to vote for my budget cuts? I said, well, Mr. President, I have a brother that always wanted to be a Federal judge. He said, well, that should not be any problem. He turned to George Bush and he turned to Jim Baker and said, can you get one of Ralph's brothers, can you get him approved by the Senate and go through confirmation there? They said, I think we can. I said, well, wait just a minute, Mr. President; he is not a lawyer. And the President got a big kick out of that. He never really forgot that. Any time he would see me out in a group, he would come shake hands with me. But he liked me. Sometimes he really could not think of my name, but he would say, how is your brother. He liked my brother because he was not a lawyer.

I just think that this country is stronger today and this country is great today because of the gifts of Ronald Reagan, for the time he gave us, for the honesty that he brought to the office, for the common man background that he had, that he understood frailty of men and women and their need for help.

I am honored to have known him. I am very lucky to have been a friend of Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the comments of our colleague from Texas. I am reminded of that tragic day when Ronald Reagan, shortly after he became President in March of 1981, and the assassination attempt took place. As they rolled him on a gurney into the emergency room, he looked up and said to his wife, I guess I forgot to duck, honey. Ronald Reagan, a man who was always ready to try to calm down the other person and make sure they felt okay, our President.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) for yielding me this time and for undertaking this great opportunity to honor President Reagan.

Asked in 1980 what Americans saw in him, Ronald Reagan replied, "Would you laugh if I told you that I think maybe they see themselves?" Mr. Speaker, hardly would we laugh.

A few years ago I had an opportunity to visit Rancho del Cielo, President

Reagan's beloved "Ranch in the Sky." The home reflects the man. It does not feel like a museum; quite the opposite, with Nancy's and his TV trays still standing by their respective recliners, both facing the old black-and-white television. It seems they have just gone out for an afternoon ride and will return at any moment.

At purchase the ranch was a mere 600 square feet. Reagan labored diligently with his own hands to remodel and expand it. Even so, the only grand thing about it is the natural surroundings. Asked once to explain the ranch's almost magnetic appeal for him, Reagan replied with a quote from Psalms: "I look to the hills from whence cometh my strength."

Mikhail Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, and Queen Elizabeth were among the notables that he hosted there. Gorbachev is said to have been disappointed by the humble ranch, knowing the lavish palaces of European leaders. However, it is fitting that the place at which Reagan felt most at ease disarmed the world's dignitaries.

He always related best with the common man, yet he was far from ordinary. To the contrary, he lived an extraordinary life which had a profound impact on the landscape of our Nation and the greater span of human history.

He left us on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the D-Day liberation, and almost 20 years ago to the day of one of his most beloved speeches on the cliffs overlooking the beaches of Normandy. Looking out at faces wizened by time, calling them the "boys of Point du Hoc," Reagan offered a compelling picture of how these young men, freedom's army, struck a death knell to the nazism and fascism which had a stranglehold on formerly-free Europe.

He extended this same moral clarity to the great conflict of his day, possessing a steadfast commitment not just to containing communism, but to transcend it, and transcend it he did.

Bursting on the national political scene during the 1964 Presidential campaign with his now famed "A Time For Choosing" speech, he spoke to a divided and searching Nation: "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on Earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us, we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."

These words reflected his eternal optimism not just in America, this great experiment in self-governance, but in Americans.

In 1979, we were in the throes of a nationwide recession, the Soviets had invaded Afghanistan, and the hostage crisis in Iran dominated the nightly news. Yet Reagan saw us as a "shining city on a hill," the hope of the world.

Reflecting on his death, may we find consolation in his own words spoken to a grieving Nation in the wake of the

Challenger disaster, whose crew perished on his watch. They, and now he, has “slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God.”

In his farewell address from the Oval Office, a place where he refused to remove his suit jacket out of a humble respect for the post he held, Reagan described how he envisioned the shining city he had invoked countless times. He went on to observe this of his time in office: “We weren’t just marking time. We made a difference. We made the city stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all.”

“Not bad” reflects the modesty of the man, but not the magnitude of his accomplishments. In rebuilding the military and facing down the tyranny of communism, calling the Soviet Union the evil empire that it was, and calling on President Gorbachev, calling upon him to tear down the Berlin Wall, in restoring our faith in the free enterprise system through cutting taxes and encouraging innovation, and, most importantly, in raising our spirits, he made us proud to be Americans.

□ 2100

He set this Nation on a new course that still inspires us today. We have a right to dream great dreams, he said, because after all, we are Americans. Yes, Mr. President, we do see ourselves in you. We still dream great dreams of freedom and opportunity around the world. And I am honored to pay tribute tonight to President Reagan, the greatest President of the last century.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, certainly, our prayers go out to Nancy Reagan and to the Reagan family. And in the true spirit of the character that has been exemplified over and over by those that have known President Reagan tonight, I yield the balance of my time to my classmate and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) to use in whatever manner he might see fit tonight.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate my colleague from Texas joining with us in this discussion this evening of perhaps America’s greatest President, Ronald Reagan. In his words, Ronald Reagan said, “Some argue that we should encourage democratic change and right-wing dictatorships but not in communist regimes. Well,” he said, “to accept this preposterous notion, as some well-meaning people have, is to invite the argument that once countries achieve a nuclear capability, they should be allowed an undisturbed reign of terror over their own citizens. We reject this, of course.”

As Ronald Reagan rebuilt America, his defense budget designed to strengthen our country’s ability to defend itself, he stared down the Evil Empire and negotiated a nuclear arms treaty with Gorbachev. As two enemies

became close friends, think of that, two enemies became close friends, Gorbachev was heard to say, Who would have thought it.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was a young intern in 1984. I had been through medical school and college and had not really followed politics much, but I was rotating through the cardiologist service. And I remember asking one of our attendees who he was going to vote for in the 1984 election. Ronald Reagan was running against Walter Mondale. He said he was voting for Ronald Reagan because he had a wife and three kids at home and the tax cuts that Reagan had put through were putting about \$200 a month more in his pocket. And it was just making it easier for him to take care of his family.

I had not followed politics much, but I was very much impressed by Rick Monsor’s comments and began to read more and more about the policies of Ronald Reagan. And over time I came to realize, like millions of other Americans, that his economic policies had been reducing taxes on Americans, actually had precipitated a great economic recovery. It had resulted in a doubling of revenue into the Federal Treasury, a dramatic reduction in unemployment. It was essentially the right economic policy. And it is an economic policy that we still follow to this day.

Of course, Ronald Reagan is most well known for ending the Cold War, precipitating the break up of the Soviet Union, and allowing millions of people in Eastern Europe to taste freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly for the first time in their lives. Millions of people besides those of us here in America were positively affected by the policies of Ronald Reagan.

But what is most dear to my heart about Ronald Reagan was his indefatigable optimism, belief in the power of American ingenuity, the American spirit, the can-do attitude. At the time that he took office, we were facing, as many of us know, terrible problems with inflation and a declining economy and as well our defenses were in decline. It was not only his policies that moved us in a positive direction but his attitudes and beliefs that lifted our Nation and helped us to move on to better things.

And he once said the following, “Whatever else history may say about me when I’m gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty’s lamp guiding your steps and opportunity’s arm steadying your way.”

President Reagan, your desire has become a reality. You did appeal to our best hopes and not our worst fears. And

your confidence in us is leading us in the right direction today. We salute your great accomplishments.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I joined my colleagues in voting for a resolution expressing the profound regret and sorrow of the House of Representatives on the death of Ronald W. Reagan, former President of the United States of America. I did not cast that vote as one Member of this, the people’s House, nor as a Congressperson for 654,000 New Yorkers who it is my privilege to represent here in our Nation’s capital. Rather, that vote reflected the profound regret and sorrow felt far beyond the borders of one district, one State, one Nation.

It is illustrative of the sincere sentiment of a world community in collective mourning. President Reagan was so much more than a head of state. He was an inspiration to all whose lives he touched, not just by his words, which reached across the great divides that separate people, but by his deeds which always sought to bring people together in common cause.

The President’s noble achievements, and there were so many, have been and will continue to be chronicled by historians for time immemorial.

So many of my colleagues who preceded and those who will follow have been and will be eloquent in their tributes to the lasting legacy of this great man, and deservedly so. For my part, I simply want to add a listing of the words which come immediately to mind when recalling President Reagan: words like integrity, conviction, honor, faith, grace, dignity, friendship, humor, values, honest, humble. The list of positives in the life of this man of principle and character is endless.

To President Reagan and his beloved partner, Nancy, who was always at his side and in his heart, I am but one of so many who say a heart felt thank you for leading by example and serving so many so well for so long. You will always be an inspiration and you will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was driving down to Corpus Christi last Saturday afternoon with my wife, Terry, and her daughter Lindsey and her cousin Jackie and Terry’s family for a brief family vacation when my staffer Andy Black called me on the telephone and said, Have you heard the news that President Reagan died this afternoon? And I said no, I have not heard that, but we immediately switched on the radio; and sure enough,

there was a news bulletin from California that President Reagan had passed away.

And so as we continued to drive down to Corpus, I began to reminisce about the President. My mind went back to the late 1970s when this country was mired in recession and interest rates were sky high and we had hostages in Iran and there was a spirit of pessimism that America could not be great anymore. And Governor Reagan came out of California and announced for the Presidency and said that there was hope, that not only could we be great again, but we would be great again. And that inspired me to campaign for him to be President of the United States in the 1980 election.

And the night that he won in November of 1980, I dusted off an old White House Fellows application and changed the date and signed it and mailed it in. White House Fellows is a program that takes young men and women from all over the country and puts them in positions to observe the workings of the Federal Government either in the White House or in the Cabinet agencies. The year that I applied there were about 1,600 applications, and I was fortunate enough to be one of like 15 or 16 that got selected.

I worked in the Department of Energy as a White House Fellow for Secretary of Energy James P. Edwards. The spring of 1982 the Secretary called me into his office and said, Joe, I am going over to the White House this afternoon for a Cabinet meeting. Would you like to go with me? I said, Mr. Secretary I would love to go with you. He said, There is one thing: you cannot say anything. You can only sit in the back of the room and listen. So I said, I promise.

So we went over to the White House, and they walked us into the Cabinet room, and I was seated directly behind Vice President Bush, who was seated directly across from President Reagan. The President came in from the Oval Office and shook hands with his Cabinet, and he reached over and got a handful of jelly beans out of a jar in the middle of the cabinet table and ate the jelly beans and asked if anybody wanted them.

Then he said, Gentlemen, what is the agenda for the day? And a Cabinet Secretary said it is the Caribbean Basin initiative and what to do about sugar quotas. The Secretary of Agriculture Jack Block raised his hand, he said, Mr. President, you have tasked me to try to help the American farmers and we are doing the best that we can, but sugar prices are low in the world market. And I think it would be disastrous for American farmers if you let more sugar into our country. And the President said, Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

Then the Secretary of State, I think it was General Haig, raised his hand and said, Mr. President, I am the Secretary of State and you have tasked me with creating this Caribbean initiative to help the emerging democracies in

the Caribbean. Their largest export crop is sugar. It would really help my job as Secretary of State if you allowed more sugar to come into the United States. And the President said, Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

He said, Is there any other discussion? The rest of the Cabinet just sat there. The President said, Well, what we ought to do is take American wheat and Caribbean sugar and create cookies and create a cookie export, cookies for peace program maybe, to the Third World. The Cabinet chuckled about that; but he said, Really, I have heard what is best for the State Department and I have heard what is best for the Agriculture Department, now I want you gentlemen to tell me what is best for America. And there were no cameras and he really said that.

And I just was absolutely inspired when he said it. I was sitting directly across from him behind Vice President Bush. Of course, I had been told I could not say anything, but when the President said that, Gentlemen tell me what is best for America, it kind of jumped out from me, I said, Right. That is why I voted for you. And, of course, the Secretary of Energy was aghast that I had said something. But the President looked over and he looked around the Vice President, he looked at me with a twinkle in his eye, did not say anything, he just smiled. And I knew then that that is why the American people trusted him, because he wanted to do whatever the issue was, what was right for America.

So when I finished my White House Fellows program, I went back to Texas. And in 1984, John Tower announced that he was not going to run for the U.S. Senate, and Congressman Phil Gramm of the 6th district announced that he was going to run for the Senate and Joe Barton announced that he was going to run for the 6th district as a Republican. Because I wanted to be a part of the Reagan revolution in Washington.

I was very fortunate that I got elected that year. I primarily got elected because my entire campaign was Reagan-Gramm-Barton. And when people went to vote for President Reagan and Senator Gramm, they also voted for me.

So now as a senior member of the majority in the House of Representatives, I simply hope that I can do what little I can to help foster the Reagan vision for America, which is always do what is right for America.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague yielding his time back, and now we know why he is chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak this evening.

As we observe the news, we have commentators rushing to give an as-

essment of the legacy of Ronald Reagan. Conservative commentators will credit him with the fall of the former Soviet Union, new approaches to the economy, especially with tax cutting strategies. And, in large measure, the rise of today's Republican Party can trace its roots to his leadership. His was a strong voice for the conservative perspective from corporate spokesperson to the governorship of our country's largest State, to two terms as our President.

□ 2115

There were, of course, areas of policy disagreement, some of which I had strong feelings about. There were also areas of mistakes, blunders for which President Reagan characteristically and clearly assumed personal responsibility.

Balanced commentary will spotlight his pragmatic approaches as Governor and President; his ability to reach across party lines, to listen, to work, to add a human touch. There was his willingness to protect the economy and work with moderates, for instance, in both parties, even to the point of significant tax increases when he was faced with spiraling budget deficits and felt that it was important for our country.

I personally am content for history and the passage of time to sharpen the focus and place his entire career in perspective, but I am thinking this evening of how he became a leader and a symbol in his last years as he made a stark admission that he suffered from Alzheimer's disease. His wife Nancy became a champion in this great struggle to help lead the fight against Alzheimer's.

At a time when there are some who would put ideology ahead of meeting the needs of victims and families, Nancy Reagan stood tall and spoke out forcefully on the needs and benefits of stem cell research. Because of the affection for President Reagan and the strength of Nancy Reagan, millions will someday be spared this suffering.

My personal memory of President Reagan will be dominated by his almost magic ability to reach out and touch the American people. Along with Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, Ronald Reagan stands out as someone who could truly communicate with the American people. Would that the American public today would be able to hear his calm, confident, friendly voice.

He has earned our respect and our thanks. The American people send their condolences and best wishes to Mrs. Reagan and the entire family.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), my favorite coach.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for providing so many of us with this opportunity.

I would like to express my appreciation to President Reagan for his adherence to principle rather than to expediency; for standing firm against America's enemies when so many urged containment and conciliation; for displaying a sense of humor when events were grim; for being decent when indecency was so common; for realizing that an offensive strategy is superior to defense when confronted by grave danger; for restoring a troubled economy by putting more resources in the people's hands and less in the government's hands; for promoting optimism when many were discouraged; for his capacity to disagree without being disagreeable; for his willingness to reach out to members of both parties in uniting, rather than dividing, this country; for showing kindness in the face of hostility; for communicating so clearly with words from his own heart and mind, written by his own hands; for inspiring courage in others through his own courage; and finally, for displaying trust in God, rather than human institutions, through an unwavering faith in God's sovereignty and mercy.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am humble to be one of the many Americans from all across our Nation who are paying tribute to President Ronald Reagan this week.

Members of Congress, including myself, came to this floor in February to celebrate President Reagan's 93rd birthday, but it is with a sad heart tonight that we come to the floor of the House of Representatives to eulogize one of our greatest Presidents.

It was appropriate that Ronald Reagan, a small-town American from Dixon, Illinois, would make a career and a home in California, would represent the very best of American life. As Governor of California, President Reagan became adept at representing the diverse nature of our country and cared deeply for all Americans.

As he is laid to rest, Ronald Reagan's legacy for America will carry on eternally in the annals of history. Not since Lincoln and Roosevelt has one man touched the core of what it means to be an American: Through unity and strength, we can achieve peace; and through self-determination, responsibility and character, we can live the American dream.

Ronald Reagan restored faith in America during one of our darkest hours of self-doubt. He gave us hope and promise when we needed it most. Reagan's true legacy is the restoration of the dream that is America. Even with his passing, Reagan's sense of hope and strength lives on.

As someone who has been inspired by his leadership and courage in the face

of the evil empire of the Soviet Union, I deeply thank President Reagan for restoring our Nation's confidence and our hope.

God bless you, Ronald Reagan, and may God continue to bless the America whose spirit of eternal optimism you helped renew.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

On an October evening in 1975, before he announced that he would seek the Republican nomination for President, Ronald Reagan addressed the 20th birthday celebration of The National Review. It was an uplifting and humorous speech until the end, when he somberly quoted Whittaker Chambers. Two decades earlier, Chambers had written, "It is idle to talk of preventing the wreck of Western civilization, it is already a wreck from within. That is why we can do little more now than snatch a fingernail of a saint from the wrack, or a handful of ashes from the fagots, and bury them secretly in a flower pot against that day, ages hence, when a few men begin again to dare to believe that there once was something else, that something else is thinkable, and need some evidence of what it was, and the fortifying knowledge that there were those who, at the great nightfall, took loving thought to preserve the tokens of hope and truth."

Chambers spent 13 years in the service of the Soviet Union as a spy. He always believed that the world was engaged in a battle between the two great religions, communism and freedom. He believed that communism could not survive in a world where people believed in a higher power. Freedom, on the other hand, could not survive in a world where people did not. A nascent faith took hold in Chambers, and in 1937 he left communism for freedom. As he did so, he told his wife that he feared they were moving to the losing side.

This is what Ronald Reagan was thinking of in October of 1975. Communism was ascendant, and free people were losing their confidence, becoming fearful and timid of the future, and over the following 4 years, the Soviet Union increased its influence in 14 sovereign nations around the globe.

I was privileged to travel in his campaign plane in 1976 when he was in the Southeast, and in several meetings thereafter, with large numbers of people or small numbers of people, he always spoke less than anyone else in the room, enjoyed watching others have it out, and indeed, the next day he may not have remembered the name of everyone in the room, but he never forgot who he was. He never forgot who he was.

Michael Deaver tells a wonderful story about walking on a street with Ronald Reagan in 1978. By this time, he

was easily recognized. A fellow kept inching close to him on the street wanting to say hello. Reagan saw him, looked over, reached out his hand and said hello. The man said, "May I have your autograph, Mr. Milland?" Reagan wrote Ray Milland on his paper and walked on. Michael Deaver said, "Why didn't you tell him who you were?" Reagan said, "I know who I am. He wanted to meet Ray Milland."

That was pure Ronald Reagan. He was not interested in making sure a stranger knew of his importance. He cared about making this one stranger happy.

Four years later he was President. He faced a military where one-third of our fleet was in dry dock, one-third of our planes could not fly for lack of spare parts. Our soldiers were practicing with pretend bullets. The economy had a 21 percent interest rate and a 14 percent inflation rate, and we were in trouble.

On January 20, 1981, President Reagan addressed these challenges and then said this: "... together, with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us.

"And, after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans."

Over the next 8 years, his economic policies took an economy from \$2.5 trillion to \$5 trillion. Revenues to the Federal Treasury went from \$519 billion to \$1.054 trillion. We created 20 million new jobs, and on the foreign front Reagan was the first President since 1917 to ignore the bureaucracy and speak truth to evil. Eight years later the evil empire was crumbling, and the Cold War was over.

I always thought that the biggest missed opportunity of the past 60 years was to not have celebrated the end of the Cold War. Ronald Reagan deserved that, and now he takes his leave.

It has been a very difficult decade for Mrs. Reagan and the family, but for those of us who love freedom, we remember a man who dared to believe that there once was something else, that something else was thinkable. He gave us evidence of what it was in the fortifying knowledge that he would be there at the great nightfall to take loving thought to preserve the tokens of hope and truth, and he was there. Not a bad final act for a B actor from Dixon, not bad at all.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for his leadership tonight to pay tribute to the Gipper, President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, the world is grieving this week over the loss of a true American hero, President Ronald Wilson Reagan. Words cannot describe the admiration and respect that I have for this great man. He led a revolution for free enterprise, for victory of democracy over communism and for national political realignment.

For many Americans in mourning, including myself, Ronald Reagan was not just a good President, he was our President. He defined the honor and dignity of the office of the Presidency, and he lifted the spirit of a Nation with his hope and joyfulness that sprang from an abiding faith in God and deeply held belief in the American dream.

I am grateful to have lived the Reagan revolution as a foot soldier promoting his vision of a dynamic economy, creating jobs through tax cuts and free markets, his support of America's military to achieve success in liberating millions by victory in the Cold War, and his transformation of developing the Republican Party which today holds the majority of State legislative seats across America for the first time since 1952. He reinvigorated the Republican Party with optimism and vision.

He entered office during a time of doubt and despair and malaise, with the economy sputtering in a looming Cold War that threatened our families. With these seemingly insurmountable problems he faced, many critics underestimated the former California Governor. Yet President Reagan brought with him his conservative principles of individual freedom, limited government, personal responsibility, and peace through strength. He also brought an optimism that America's greatest days were ahead of us.

Proving all of his detractors wrong, President Reagan won the Cold War, spurred the economy to robust growth and restored our national confidence and patriotism. As author and former Presidential staffer Peter Robinson said recently, "Ronald Reagan was great, because Ronald Reagan was right."

His straightforward speeches began to change minds across America, and many became Reagan Democrats. Today in my home State, Republicans hold most statewide offices, a complete turnaround that has occurred throughout the South thanks to the leadership of Ronald Reagan.

He started a revolution where in 1980 Republicans in South Carolina held only 16 seats in the statehouse, and now there is a Republican supermajority of 76 out of 124 members. In the State senate, Republicans soared from three members in 1980 to now a supermajority of 27 of 46 members.

For 2 years I was honored to work in the Reagan administration as Deputy General Counsel to the Secretary of Energy Jim Edwards. I am a proud Reagan alumni association member, and in 1990, because of his efforts to win the Cold War and bring freedom to the oppressed people of the Soviet Union, I was asked by former Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater to observe the first democratic elections in Bulgaria.

I saw firsthand the Reagan legacy of peace and freedom, as Central and Eastern Europe rose from the ashes of communism to become strong democ-

racies and American allies. The people I have met over the years from Bratislava, Slovakia, to Novosibirsk, Russia, regard President Reagan as their own hero, a man who was unafraid to tell the truth about the evil empire.

While we mourn his passing, President Ronald Reagan will never be forgotten. Children will read for centuries to come about the "Happy Warrior" who helped liberate tens of millions from totalitarian communism and restored America's position in the world as "the shining city on a hill."

□ 2130

Democracy is more widespread today in the world than any time in history due to President Reagan's success of peace through strength.

We cannot help but be reminded of his legacy as America faces similar battles today against the oppression of terrorism, and his critics deride our President, much as they did President Reagan 20 years ago. America is under attack because we are a symbol of liberty in the world, and we must meet this challenge with the same courage and conviction that Ronald Reagan had.

As he said in the 1964 Goldwater campaign in what has simply become known as "the speech" and was earlier referenced by Chairman Lewis, "You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the last step into a thousand years of darkness."

May God bless the Reagan family, God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless America.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) very much for those very eloquent comments. I am reminded of the fact that in very simple form, Ronald Reagan challenged the world on behalf of liberty, on behalf of peace. He had this remarkable relationship that developed over time with Mikhail Gorbachev. After he described the Evil Empire in straightforward terms, they began to communicate as leaders of two great countries. Indeed, together over time they reduced the nuclear threat by coming to agreement with one another.

It has been said earlier, but let me repeat the words of Ronald Reagan: "Mr. Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek the liberalization, come here to this gate, open this gate. Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

And indeed, within a couple of years, that wall came down. The East-West confrontation began to thaw; and between these two leaders, the world has seen a different kind of opportunity for peace. Today we face the challenge that involves the war on terrorism;

and, indeed, that struggle is bound to last for years to come. It was the legacy of Ronald Reagan that laid the foundation for America to best be prepared to defend itself for liberty and for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 5 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). The gentleman from California has 2 minutes remaining of his original time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House today and as the designee of the majority leader, I request an additional hour of debate on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for an additional 1 hour.

The gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from California, our dean, Chairman Lewis, our able chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest Presidents in the history of our Nation, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States.

He was a leader when our country needed it most, at a time when many Americans, including myself, had found ourselves disaffected by politics. His optimism gave our Nation the confidence and motivation to resume its place as a world leader.

I well remember the 1970s after President Nixon's resignation and the pessimism that followed, when many Americans disassociated themselves from public service. Ronald Reagan came onto the Presidential scene and reminded us that the "best was yet to come," that we are not to blame for the world's problems; and yet, as a great Nation, we had a place of responsibility and a role to play.

President Reagan believed, as our Declaration of Independence states, all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Additionally, he knew better than most that strength comes from within, from the people. Therefore, first and foremost, Reagan used his first term as President to bring these rights back to Americans starting with what was then known as Reaganomics.

He sought to restore America to the people by giving them back control of their pocketbooks. Uncle Sam was put on a diet of lower taxes, sound money and fewer regulations, allowing us the benefits of hard work. By the time that Reagan left office, only two income brackets existed, with a top rate of 28 percent, compared to the 14 income brackets, with the top rate of 70 percent, that existed when he took office. Additionally, government was scaled back and red tape eliminated, allowing

Americans to take care of themselves. As Reagan was apt to say. "Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."

He saw the rebuilding of America's military. After years of low morale and interest in the armed services, President Reagan made a return to the pre-Vietnam days of faith and professional appeal in our military. As Commander in Chief, he oversaw the largest peacetime buildup of military spending in history, leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. His revolutionary policies regarding investment in military technology, good training, and pay laid the foundation for a strong military that later claimed victory in Operation Desert Storm and continues to protect our national security well into the 21st century and, now, in the war on terror.

Ronald Reagan lived a life worth living. He saw both the birth and death of Communism. He won the hearts of Americans and world leaders. How? He believed in peace through strength, and he lived his convictions based on experience, intuition, and love of life.

I will end with one of my favorite quotes: "Above all, we must realize that no arsenal, no weapon in the arsenal of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women."

Thank you, President Reagan. May God bless you and your family, and may God bless America.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I join my colleagues tonight and rise in tribute to a great man, President Ronald Reagan.

In 1980, I turned 18, and the first person I ever voted for was Ronald Reagan. With that vote, the world changed. It changed because President Reagan clearly understood that the greatest strength of this Nation is the American people. He believed in us so much that he inspired us to believe in ourselves.

And in his typical humble fashion, during his last speech from the Oval Office, he said, "I wasn't a great communicator, but I communicated great things, and they didn't spring full bloom from my brow; they came from the heart of a great Nation."

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan captured the hearts of the American people and he unleashed the power, the hope, and the optimism that comes with a sincere understanding and love of freedom and democracy. President Reagan changed the world by simply reminding us all of exactly who we are. He inspired us to become the Nation we were all along. He always saw the shining city on the hill, and he gave us the vision to see it with him.

Although we deeply mourn his passing, Ronald Reagan's life was a gift to the world, a gift that will never be forgotten by all who love freedom and the shining example he gave us.

Thank you, Mr. President, and God bless Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

(Mr. HAYES asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my dear friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), for his leadership tonight in honoring such a wonderful man. President Ronald Reagan was a good man who became a great President. His leadership has inspired me throughout my career in public service, as I am sure Reagan inspired many folks presently serving in the public arena.

One of my favorite Ronald Reagan quotes comes from his 1986 State of the Union address, and I quote: "Government growing beyond our consent had become a lumbering giant, slamming shut the gates of opportunity, threatening to crush the very roots of our freedom. What brought America back? The American people brought us back, with quiet courage and common sense; with undying faith that in this Nation under God the future will be ours, for the future belongs to the free."

That is one of my favorite Reagan quotes for a number of reasons. First, it addresses one of the main reasons I switched parties. Like President Reagan, I began my career not as a Republican but as a Democrat; and, like Reagan, I switched parties because I felt that "big government was slamming shut the gates of opportunity, threatening to crush the very roots of our freedom."

Ronald Reagan's conservative principles, put into successful action, changed our Nation's attitude on the role of government and personal responsibility. Without President Reagan, there would not have been a bipartisan effort to reform welfare and end that vicious cycle of government dependency.

The other thing I like about this quote is that it reveals so much about the character of Ronald Reagan: his unbridled optimism, his belief in the American people, and his humbleness. He was too humble to take sole credit for the United States' return to greatness, even though had his measures failed he would have assumed the blame. Instead, he gave the credit to the American people, because he believed in the American people.

One of his favorite quotes was: "There is no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." And he lived that quote on a daily basis.

One of the other things I admired about Ronald Reagan was his steadfast determination to stand up to communist aggression. Even though he knew such a determined view may not be popular, he never backed away from his firm belief that communism was wrong. In 1982, speaking before the British Parliament, Reagan said, and I

quote: "It is the Soviet Union that runs against the tide of history. It is the march of freedom and democracy which will leave Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history, as it has left other tyrannies which stifle the freedom and muzzle self-expression of the people."

No truer words have been spoken. I believed it then, and I believe it now. We all saw Reagan's words validated when the Soviet Union fell apart shortly after President Reagan left office.

Finally, even when facing a devastating diagnosis, President Reagan still delivered the news with his typical optimism for America and his belief for the American people. On November 5, 1994, he wrote a letter to the American people announcing that he had Alzheimer's disease: "In closing, let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your President. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that day may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

I do believe that the United States does face a bright dawn. And President Reagan and his leadership can take a large part of the credit for that fact. While I am saddened that President Reagan is no longer with us, I rejoice knowing that he has met his maker, and his maker is looking him in the eye and saying, President Reagan, the Gipper, you are a good and faithful servant.

He is now in a far better place. He is looking down on the country and the people that he loved. May God bless and protect America and the vision that was Ronald Reagan's for us and our future; that the freedom belong to the free.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and I understand that somewhere in the building his son and his son's bride are wandering around. His son, Sam, was not born when the gentleman came to these Chambers, so because of family relations and otherwise, I now yield to him.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for yielding me this time, and I want to thank my great friend also for not only helping to preside over this special tribute, but for everything that he did in helping to lead the California delegation to be a source of strength for President Reagan when he put forth those monumental changes in the direction of our government.

I have listened to his statements and just now to the statement of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), and many others, in talking about this wonderful American, Ronald Reagan; and I thought I might just

touch on a couple of the things he did in the way of national security.

We have short memories, Mr. Speaker; and President Reagan was not always popular, especially with the media and often with our European allies. I can remember in the 1980s, when he responded to the Soviet Union's ringing Western Europe with the SS-20 missiles and he started to move those Persian missiles and ground launch cruise missiles into Europe to offset the Soviet strength of their strategic programs and their intermediate range ballistic missiles that they were moving in. And there were massive demonstrations against Ronald Reagan and against those who supported him in Europe and lots of sniping by the press in this country.

□ 2145

And yet because of that strength and because he rebuilt national security, the Russians at one point, especially after the Reykjavik summit when he refused to give up the Strategic Defense Initiative, that is missile defense, the right of Americans to defend themselves against incoming ballistic missiles, after he did that, there was lots of hand-wringing among the elite media and lots of our European allies who said, there it goes, the last chance for peace, and lo and behold, the Russians picked up the phone and said, can we talk?

Ronald Reagan at that point started to negotiate with the Soviet Union, and not just to negotiate a peace, but to negotiate the disassembly of the Soviet empire, the tear-down of the Soviet empire, which is manifest today in numerous free states where once there was one state ruled by tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, I remember the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) was present as one of our senior members, and the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) had not been elected yet, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), and Bob Lagomarsino, and John Rousselot, and Chip Pashayan, and my colleague Bill Lowery, and Bobby Fever, new Republicans who had come in in the Reagan win of 1980, and the President invited us to Blair House. The President invited us to Blair House even while President Carter was still in the White House. We were standing in the foyer, celebrated this victory of our Commander-in-Chief-to-be because he had not been sworn in yet, and the President-elect came down the stairs, and he talked to us about being up on his ranch in Santa Barbara and killing an especially big rattlesnake the day before while he was cutting brush. We had a great time talking with the President-elect. After a while he said, I am tired, I am going to go upstairs and hit the hay. He said, you guys turn off the lights when you leave. He went right upstairs; we continued to have a good time. That represented that western hospitality, that great charm that

Ronald Reagan had that brought so many people, attracted so many people, even people of very different political persuasion.

My son Sam was not even born in those days when we first came in. I remember the picture of the cowboy that the President drew for my other son Duncan, who is now a United States marine and deployed overseas.

I think the one thing that this President sold in boatloads was inspiration. He was great at inspiration. He realized a little secret, and that is this country runs on inspiration. Whether it is the markets or the economy or people deciding whether or not they are going to join the uniformed services, inspiration is the fuel that this country runs on, and that is something that Ronald Reagan had an endless supply of.

He was tough during the tough times. You have to have good endurance to be a good President, and he had great endurance. He was able to handle the difficult times, the times when he was not real popular, and outlast his critics. It has been kind of fun in the last couple of days to watch people who criticized him very severely to seem now to remember that he was not such a bad guy after all. Not only was he not such a bad guy, but he brought this country together as a family. He was, of course, the head of the family.

It is a time for us to mourn this President, but also to celebrate his great life and the big piece of this life that he gave to our Nation. I will never forget when I was first running for Congress, I was practicing law on behalf of a barbershop on the waterfront in San Diego. My dad came in and said, you can be a Member of Congress. He said, Ronald Reagan is running. He is going to run on a platform of national defense and jobs, and in San Diego that is the same thing. I said, what do I need to start running? He said, we need one thing; you need a picture with Ronald Reagan, and we are going to go up and get it, and we went up and got it in L.A. That launched my foray into politics. So many of us won that year who had no chance of winning because we were riding along with a guy named Ronald Reagan.

Let us take a message and a lesson from this great American and proceed ahead with optimism and with dedication to the idea that you get peace through strength. That was a trademark of Ronald Reagan's foreign policy. I think we are following it with this President. I think we need to stay the course and stay steady.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for letting me say a few things.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) reminds me of another time when Ronald Reagan was trying to bring together Republicans to form a majority. It was 1969, and there was a majority for approximately 2

years in the California lower house for the assembly, and Ronald Reagan was then Governor of California. He came into this room, and here were 41 members of the new majority sitting there in front of him. He is sitting at a table in front of us, his legs dangling from the table, he has argyle socks on.

He said, I was trying to think about what I should say to you all. We have not had a majority before. We have to govern, he said, and he said, it is possible from time to time we may disagree with each other as we go about making decisions on public policy.

As I was thinking about what to say to you, I was reminded of my father-in-law, who is a dentist. It seems he had this fellow sitting in the chair, and the guy had an abscessed tooth which had to come out. And my father-in-law began to put this needle in his jaw. About that time my father-in-law felt kind of a groping at the lower part of his abdomen. He looked down startled, and the fellow looked back up and said, we are not going to hurt each other, are we, Doc?

For those who knew Ronald Reagan, he would get just to the edge of color, but nonetheless, he knew how to make a point to bring people together in a very special way; a man never to be forgotten, recognizing how important it is that we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, this week millions of Americans and people around the globe mourn the loss of one of our Nation's greatest heroes, Ronald Reagan. From the time that he took the oath of office until he left the White House, few American Presidents ever enjoyed the popularity, support and love that Ronald Reagan engendered. He developed a special bond with the American people, and one can see from the tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support across our great Nation that that special bond still endures today.

More than any other person, President Reagan is responsible for winning the Cold War. He engaged his Communist adversaries in the battle of ideas and achieved victory by winning the war for the hearts and minds of people. In his heart he knew these people. He knew the Bulgarian student who was never allowed to read Thomas Jefferson. He knew the East German mother who wanted a better life for her children. He knew the Polish factory worker who longed to be free of Soviet subjugation.

One 65-year-old Czech who lived under the Soviet regime said, "For us, Reagan was important because we knew he was really anti-Communist, emotionally anti-Communist. For us, he was a symbol of the United States' genuine determination to bring communism to an end."

A Romanian man who was recently interviewed struggled to find the words to describe President Reagan's legacy,

and then he simply said, "It is due to him that we are free."

Thanks to Ronald Reagan's determined leadership, untold millions were liberated from Communist tyranny and from the palpable fear of nuclear annihilation.

America was fortunate to have Ronald Reagan. At a time when our country needed a hero, Ronald Reagan was able to rekindle the American spirit. He inspired us with his powerful words and unwavering optimism. He had a steadfast belief in the goodness of America. No amount of pessimism, strife or tragedy could discourage that thinking or blur his vision of America as a "shining city on a hill."

I was one of perhaps hundreds of thousands of people that had the privilege to shake the hand of the former President, look him in the eyes and thank him for all he did for America. Frankly, next to my marriage and the birth of my children, it was one of the most profound moments in my life. An earlier generation was inspired to public service by Barry Goldwater. Many in my generation were inspired to serve by Ronald Reagan.

A woman in Santa Monica recently stated, "When I think of him, I think of America. What is that saying, American, like Mom and apple pie. He should be in that, too, because he represented what this country is all about."

President Reagan was what this country is all about. He believed in the American dream. He believed in the power of free men and free markets. He championed less government, lower taxes and lifting regulation. He believed in our country's ability to produce boundless possibilities and limitless opportunity. His policies ushered in a new age of entrepreneurship and innovation, and led to one of the greatest economic expansions in our Nation's history.

We believed in President Reagan because he believed in us. He always saw the best in us, and he never stopped believing in the decency and ingenuity of the American people. He believed deeply in the strength of democracy and never lost hope of America realizing its "rendezvous with destiny."

Our Nation will deeply miss Ronald Reagan. Undoubtedly future generations of Americans will remember him among the pantheon of America's great leaders, among the names of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, but there will never be another President Reagan.

Let us remember his words the way he wished to be remembered: "Whatever else history may say about me when I am gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way."

Mr. Speaker, today should serve more than just a memorial, it should

serve as a reminder. As President Reagan also said, "There is much work before us. Not easy tasks perhaps, but I would remind you, they are not impossible, because after all, we are Americans," and perhaps none more so than Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), Ronald Reagan's home State.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, unlike many other Members of this body, I never had the great privilege of serving with Ronald Reagan. When President Reagan was elected in 1980, I was raising my four children and running a law practice out of my home in Hinsdale, Illinois. Back then I did not follow world events or political developments like I do now. In those days, it was all I could do to keep up with kids' soccer games, make it to the school board meetings on time, and ensure that I did not miss a court deadline for an important client.

This week, like most Americans, I revel in the stories that my colleagues and others who knew him well have recounted about their special moments with our 40th President. Like most Americans, I cannot get enough of Ronald Reagan.

What strikes me as I think back through the years of those Reagan times of the 1980s are two very important things. They are the things that he said that touched my life and my interests as a busy mother and a died-in-the-wool Republican.

First is what later became known as the Reagan 11th commandment. Ronald Reagan said, and practiced this principle, "Speak no ill of a fellow Republican."

Second was the Reagan rule for success: "There is no limit to the good a man can do in this world if he does not care who gets the credit."

Mr. Speaker, tonight my thoughts and prayers go out to the Reagan family. It is true I never met him, but they will never know how much his words, his deeds and his common sense have influenced and will continue to positively affect the generations of leaders that will follow him.

□ 2200

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), a member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. WICKER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him for controlling the time tonight and affording us the opportunity even at this hour to pay tribute.

Mr. Speaker, I too rise and join so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in paying tribute to Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States. I agree with so much of what has been said here today and throughout the Nation in the past few days about the incredible legacy of

Ronald Reagan and what he left to America and to the world. Ronald Reagan will always be larger than life to millions of people around the world who were freed from the shackles of Communism because he stood firm against what he so correctly called the Evil Empire. Ronald Reagan's determination and leadership forced an end to the Cold War. His philosophy of cutting taxes and easing Federal regulations brought about one of the largest periods of economic growth in American history. And his eternal optimism and hope for a brighter day lifted the spirits of a Nation.

Much has been said about Ronald Reagan's charisma, quick wit and ability to put people at ease. He was also blessed with a great asset for anyone in public life, a sense of timing. Whether it was one of his famous one-liners or the ability to do just the right thing at the right time, he always seemed to disarm a tough national press corps or defuse a difficult political issue.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of witnessing an example of his instinctive timing and humor in 1980 in Mississippi when then-candidate Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, came to the Neshoba County Fair in Philadelphia, Mississippi. The Neshoba County Fair is called Mississippi's largest house party and has been the premier gathering for political speeches during the hot Mississippi summers for more than a century. Ronald Reagan's visit was the first ever by a Presidential candidate to this most celebrated political event in my home State.

One of the issues that had surfaced in Mr. Reagan's Presidential campaign was the question of his age. He was 69 years old. Some questioned whether he might be too old for the job. At the Neshoba County Fair an incident occurred which could have potentially exaggerated the issue of his age. After Mr. Reagan's speech, a local craftsman, Gary Harkins of Mississippi, presented Mr. Reagan with a rocking chair. I am sure some of the candidate's advisers and staff were horrified to think of the prospect that the one image coming from this appearance was a picture of the 69-year-old former Governor sitting in a rocking chair. But without hesitation, Ronald Reagan sat down in the chair, grabbed his wife, Nancy, by the hand and pulled her onto his lap. They appeared at that moment to be the very picture of vitality and energy. The widely distributed photograph and film footage which followed went around the Nation and nobody seeing that image thought Ronald Reagan was too old to be President.

Mr. Reagan's quick thinking probably boosted his candidacy and dispelled doubts in the minds of some voters. The incident also changed the life of Greg Harkins, the craftsman who made the rocking chair and whose fledgling business was energized by his short encounter on the national stage. Mr. Harkins soon began receiving hundreds of requests for chairs from across

the Nation and around the world. His business is still going strong today nearly 25 years later, and Ronald Reagan provided the spark for that little bit of business success. Harkins was quoted recently as saying, "What they did was give me a foothold on something that I can be able to carry on for the rest of my life."

Mr. Harkins represents just one small example of how Ronald Reagan touched the lives of people in ways that are hard to quantify. We may not know all of their names or their unique stories, but his fellow citizens gained inspiration from Ronald Reagan's leadership and his attitude that it really was "morning in America."

Whether it was a young American answering a call to public service or becoming involved in the growing conservative movement or simply taking the initiative to exercise their rights and register to vote for the first time, Ronald Reagan energized many Americans to action. They followed him because they trusted this man of principled beliefs and because he captured their imagination, and they simply liked him.

Ronald Reagan, some people said, would be limited because he was only an actor. He was perhaps the best example of an actor turned politician; but he ended up being the real thing, the true article, the genuine American; and, Mr. Speaker, I believe he will be recorded as being the greatest President of our time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, before I proceed any further, pursuant to the order of the House of today and as the designee of the majority leader, I request an additional hour of debate on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). The gentleman is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from California for allowing me a couple of minutes during this period of tribute. The death of President Reagan reminded Americans and many around the world of the achievements of his 8 years in office. A significant part of his legacy is that he helped the United States to feel good about itself again and the tax cuts that he advocated in the early 1980s stimulated the economic boom that lasted until the end of the century.

History may well show that President Reagan's greatest accomplishment was reestablishing our military strength and bringing about the collapse of the Soviet Union, which had been the principal adversary of the free world in the Cold War that had raged since the close of World War II. The strengthened military was the one that waged Desert Storm successfully and laid the foundation for the United States military that is leading the war on terrorism. President Reagan rekin-

dled the American spirit and patriotic fervor in this country. We shall never forget the grace and style with which President and Mrs. Reagan represented America. Our country will always remember Ronald Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for taking the leadership tonight. The previous speaker, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE), myself, and President Reagan all shared one thing in common as many do in this House and that is we used to be Democrats and we are Republicans. That brings me to what I want to share tonight, which is the change in the political landscape brought about by the life and service of Ronald Wilson Reagan; but I want to start by saying that I believe, and I think this honors his memory, that neither party has an exclusive on integrity or ideas, neither party always has it right or always has it wrong and the two-party system continues to serve our country extremely well.

I am proud of the first half of my life when I was a Democrat and proud of the second half of my life as a Republican, but the story in my life as a Southern conservative Democrat goes way back generations. My father's great great grandfather, Enoch Alldredge, served in the 19th century in the Alabama General Assembly for in excess of 40 years. My mother's great uncle Reuben Alldridge served in the 20th century in the Alabama General Assembly for a number of years, both very prominent political figures from the northern part of Alabama, all as Democrats. So I grew up honestly as a Southern conservative Democrat.

As a matter of fact, my first real memory of it all as a young person was watching my parents be involved in local campaigns and then, in the fall of 1976, going to Woolen Gym at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a 19-year-old freshman and voting for Jimmy Carter as President of the United States and then having my parents attend the inaugural in Washington here with Franklin and Emmy Haney, two of the biggest Democrats in the State of Tennessee and being proud that my parents were here and saluting the new President, Jimmy Carter.

But the years that followed in my formative years certainly gave me an opportunity and hope when I saw Ronald Reagan. I saw the malaise we were in. Let me say that Jimmy Carter has proven what a fine and outstanding man he is over these last 24 years since leaving office. It was a low point in our country's history, but he is a good and decent man; and frankly I will stand by that vote as a Democrat at that time, but over those next 4 years at the University of North Carolina, we saw a real low in our country's history and then all of a sudden there was a new day in 1980, and it seemed like someone

came from the West and actually kind of showed us the hope and opportunity that you heard repeated on this floor over and over and over again.

I can remember as the campaign generated momentum in 1980 at UNC, my fraternity, the Sigma Nu house, got real energized about the campaign and by the convention when they had that strong conservative Governor from the West team up with maybe the best person on paper that had run in 100 years, George Herbert Walker Bush. It was like that did it. That sealed the deal. What a great team. And on election night in the fall of 1980 we loaded up in cars from UNC. It was Lee Ives and Tom Nesbit and Tony Floyd and Allen Miller and Lyn Thornburg and a group of us, and we drove to Washington, D.C. and we were here that night in 1980 when Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United States.

I was a Southern conservative Democrat who became a Republican. Our entire family shifted from our party identification over the hope, the opportunity, the fresh start that Ronald Reagan brought to the political process. That changed the political landscape in the United States of America, and it moved our country from what was more left of center to slightly right of center.

The Founding Fathers did not want things to change dramatically. This is like a big ship of state. If you turn it one degree, you arrive at a different destination. The country went from being left of center to right of center over the leadership, the strength and what I would say is the constancy of Ronald Reagan. He stood for something, and he simply articulated to this country what he stood for, and he never wavered. When people elect a President, they want a strong leader that can make a decision, that will stand his ground. When the wind blows, he stands firm. Ronald Reagan did that.

That is why the 8 years is a legacy beyond measure. As the previous speaker said, in our lifetime, the model, the great leader is Ronald Reagan. I salute him. He made a Republican out of me, and I have been in the House of Representatives as a Republican elected official for 10 years. I ran once and lost to get here, and I am proud of the whole story. I am very typical of a lot of Southern boll weevil conservatives that believed in that simple limited government, personal responsibility, traditional values, strong national defense, lower taxes, take care of yourself and your family first and your extended family, look to the government last, but do it with a smile on your face and love in your heart. He is like a father, a big brother, a great leader who we could trust and have confidence in. Today we remember a truly great American President, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Tennessee, I must say, reminds me a bit of my own youth, for I was raised in a family where my father was a Republican, my mother was a Democrat. I was somewhat confused. But the gentleman reminds me of another thing. I remember as a student at UCLA having the chance to participate in a pre-Peace Corps people-to-people program. I was headed with a group of 11 other students on our way to India to talk about freedom and hope and opportunity.

During that time, I was really confused myself. Would I become a member of one of our great parties, the Democratic Party, or would I become a member of the Republican Party? It was amazing what that summer did. I made that decision for myself in the summer in India. Why? Because one of our great parties was of the view that maybe individuals in our society needed a little help, maybe individual people could not do it for themselves and government was a requirement. It was another of the great parties that thought the individual was critical, made a difference in our future, and if you apply your spirit, your talent, your energy within that party, the survival of the individual was the key. That is how I made my decision. The gentleman from Tennessee reminded me a lot of that tonight. It is a pleasure to be with him.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to my dear friend, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to begin by saying that I come to honor the life of Ronald Reagan; but the truth is nothing I can say, nothing anyone can say can speak more loudly than Reagan's own achievements do. His legacy will endure and his memory will remain.

□ 2215

Many leaders have changed history. Ronald Reagan changed the future. How soon we forget the environment he inherited in 1981, double-digit inflation, high interest rates at home, and Soviet aggression combined with American malaise abroad. Yet through his conviction, his courage, and his commitment, Ronald Reagan changed the Nation and the world.

The story of Ronald Reagan is the story of America. He was an ordinary man who led a most extraordinary life. Born in poverty, Reagan rose to the greatest political office in the world. Along the way he did not merely argue for American values, he lived them. His determination was matched only by his decency, his leadership equaled only by his love of country.

He was a great President who was also a good man, and he was a man so unlike any other in politics. Politics is filled with people who go with the flow, change with the times, and exchange principles for polls. These politicians are like tugboats, pushed back and

forth by the waves. Not Reagan. He was like a battleship, always moving forward in its destination, always certain of victory.

Though he has now left us, his impact never will. Every time we see a free person in a foreign land vote in a democratic election, Ronald Reagan is there. Every time we see a new job created through innovation and creativity, Ronald Reagan is there. And every time we see an American taking pride in his country, Ronald Reagan is there.

Ultimately we mourn for ourselves, not for Reagan, for his life was one of victory. Like few other leaders in history, he lived to see his vision vindicated. Just as he had predicted, he saw communism repudiated and freedom spread across the globe.

Ronald Reagan always knew who he was and what he believed. He knew why America was great and why America must lead. We recognize tonight his achievements and his legacy, but also let us also remember his style and his self-deprecating humor. We give him the credit he did not seek or think important.

At the end of his Presidency, Reagan was asked if he objected to all the favorable press coverage that Mikhail Gorbachev got. "Good Lord, no," Reagan responded. "I co-starred with Errol Flynn once."

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, tonight it is my deepest heart-felt honor to remember and to celebrate the life of Ronald Wilson Reagan. President Reagan was a man of unfettered principle. He was not afraid to do what was right. And not only was he not afraid, he was tenaciously committed to doing only that that he thought was right in his own heart.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan warned us all to beware of the temptation to ignore the facts of history and the "aggressive impulses of any evil empire, to simply call the arms race a giant misunderstanding and thereby remove ourselves from the struggle between right and wrong, good and evil." Mr. Reagan understood that some things were worth fighting, even dying, for, and he was resolute about them in his heart.

President Reagan made us all believe that America still had what it takes to be victorious, to rise above and out of difficult circumstances, and to face devastating challenges. He said, "Every promise, every opportunity, is still golden in this land. And through that golden door, our children walk into tomorrow with the knowledge that no one can be denied the promise that is America. Her heart is full, her future bright. She has arms big enough to comfort and strong enough to support." By the grace of God, those words are still true today.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan on so many occasions simply shared his wis-

dom and experience with us. He stated that "the future does not belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave." I believe he would want us to continue to make this Nation great by preserving its goodness. He would want us to continue in the struggle between right and wrong and good and evil.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan's life was a transformed one, one that reflected the light from within, and he shared that light with all of us in the brightness and warmth of his smile and in his grace and good humor.

Mr. Reagan said this of his Savior: "He promised there will never be a dark night that does not end, and by dying for us, Jesus showed how far our love should be ready to go: all the way." Ronald Reagan's dark nights on this Earth have ended, and he is at this moment in the presence of his precious Savior. And now for Mr. Reagan each day has a bright new dawn and a shining sunset, and while he was here, he went all the way. And, Mr. Speaker, if he could speak to us one last time, I truly believe that he would tell us the same message that he told us so many times before when he said, you and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We can preserve this, the last best hope of mankind on Earth, for our children, or we can sentence them to take that very last step into a thousand years of darkness. If we do fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us that we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your life, and thank you for reminding us all of our rendezvous with destiny.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

It is an amazing thing to join our colleagues tonight and to thank President Reagan and his family for their decades of service. And as I have listened to our colleagues tonight, I thought about the first time I had the opportunity to see and hear President Reagan, and this was back in the early 1970s, and he had come into Jackson, Mississippi, for a Republican Party event. And I attended that event with my parents and was absolutely amazed at several things as I listened to and watched Ronald Reagan. It was his warmth, his ability to communicate, the way he used simple words for a very strong message, one that really showed his principle and his commitment in those still convictions that never ever wavered.

And one of the things that really impressed me was that this was a man who really loved America. He loved everything that America stood for. And I think that it is fitting that we have a world that stands in awe today as they look back and they remember those commitments in and accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to return today with some of my colleagues from being in Normandy to celebrate and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day and the fight for freedom that was so important to our allies and also to our Nation, and to have an opportunity to share with so many of those individuals their love of President Ronald Reagan. And I think they all saw in him something that we appreciated and maybe could not always put into words. But he promised a renewal of American spirit for us, and by sheer willpower, he made that happen. And I think, yes, that he believed in us more than we believed in ourselves as he became the President of this great country, and he taught us how to enact that belief.

He also taught us that tax relief would make our economy boom, and that indeed happened with an unprecedented economic expansion. He also showed us how one could say, I am not going to hide behind diplomatic platitudes, and I am not going to allow the Soviet Union to slowly eat away at the West. He simply communicated the truth about communism and exposed it for what it was: a cruel system built by thugs and murderers.

And President Reagan truly was the quintessential American hero, the small-town boy with the can-do attitude who set out with a dream and ended up changing the world. He had courage, he had wisdom, and he believed in the best that there was with America. God bless, Ronald Reagan. He was a true American original.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, from the days I knew Ronald Reagan as Governor, and he was a key leader who sponsored early development of child care in our State, recognizing the importance of quality daycare in terms of the future of America's children, the environmental governor who saved Lake Tahoe, to the days that I had a chance to watch him rebuild America's strength by building our defense, he always was straightforward, candid with the American people.

And not so long ago he was heard to say: "In closing let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your President. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead."

God bless you, Ronald Reagan. To Nancy and their family, all of us share with you our prayers for our great President, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution, a fitting tribute to a personal hero of mine, the fortieth President of these great United States, President Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was and is today the personification of all that is good in America. All that knew him have commented on the eternal optimism he exuded, much like the hope America presents to the rest of the world.

He was a beacon of light for freedom and for freedom loving people everywhere. The fact is that today there are not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of people in the world who live in freedom, and these people are free because of the leadership of President Ronald Reagan. He had a vision that set this nation down a path of greatness that historians shall look back on as a vital turning point for not only this country, but indeed the world as well.

There is an old military axiom that there are no bad battalions only bad leaders. As a corollary, I propose that there are no great nations, only great leaders.

President Reagan was indeed one of this country's greatest leaders. During the eight years he was President, he turned this country around militarily, economically and diplomatically. And as a result, he stands with many of the great leaders of our country's past—like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

What he left most importantly was a legacy of optimism and a restored faith in the American presidency. In 1984, the year I was elected to Congress, President Reagan said while speaking to students at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, "We're an optimistic people. Like you, we inherited a vast land of endless skies, tall mountains, rich fields, and open prairies. It made us see the possibilities in everything. It made us hopeful." He made us hopeful even in the face of adversity.

Who can forget that cold, grim day the hours after the *Challenger* disaster, when our nation was stunned and weeping? He comforted us with a poem:

"We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them this morning, as they prepared for their journey, and waved goodbye, and slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God."

And today, we as American people, are comforted for it is most certain that as he heads on his final journey, we wave goodbye to our fortieth President and he "slips the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God." Well done, Mr. President. I will miss you and America will miss you, but we will never forget you.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ronald Reagan—a beloved President who changed America and the world.

I first want to express my deepest condolences to Former First Lady Nancy Reagan and the Reagan family. An entire nation shares your sadness over the loss of our former President; a man of humble beginnings who rose to capture our hearts and minds, our hopes, and our aspirations.

Ronald Reagan embodied the spirit of what it means to be an American. As much as he was a leader of the people, he was also a product of the people, which helped him to relate with people from all different backgrounds. He was born to a working family in a small rural town, and brought up to respect traditional values such as family, hard work, God and country. Blessed with an unmistakably entrepreneurial spirit, he set out to pursue the American Dream.

Ronald Reagan lived through and endured tremendous economic hardship during the

Great Depression. Despite these challenges, he put himself through college by earning a scholarship, washing dishes, waiting tables, all while sending some of his earnings home to his parents to help support his family. His strong character was forged by hard work.

Driven by the belief that all people should be able to live freely, Ronald Reagan joined the American people and the world community to rally against the tyrannical oppression of the Axis powers and to defeat Nazism in Europe. United behind the many brave soldiers fighting for freedom in Europe and the Pacific, Ronald Reagan volunteered his talents to create instructional videos critical to the training of Army recruits during World War II. A staunch defender of freedom and democracy, Ronald Reagan would, after the defeat of the Axis powers, turn his attention to vanquishing from the world another threat to liberty: Communism.

Ronald Reagan began his political ascendancy in 1966 during his campaign for Governor of California. He would go on to win the first of two terms as California's governor before reaching the White House in 1980. His conservatism appealed to many across political and cultural lines. We will always remember his optimism and confidence in America's future.

From "sea to shining sea," President Reagan, recognized the importance and value of every individual and every community to our country's strength. On two separate occasions, President Reagan visited Guam, America's most distant Territory. On these occasions, I had the honor of hosting President Reagan as First Lady of Guam along with my husband Governor Ricky Bordallo, experiences I remember fondly. Donning "island-wear" rather than more formal business attire, President Reagan was approachable and personable and put those around him at ease. His charm and grace left a lasting impression on those he came into contact with. He was as genuine and real in person as he was behind the podium or in front of the camera.

He recognized the importance of Guam in promoting American values in the region, calling our island "America's flagship in the western Pacific." President Reagan declared: "It's said that it's here on Guam each morning that the Sun first casts its rays upon the Stars and Stripes. Well, my friends, I can't think of a more beautiful way for America's day to begin." While these words are recorded in history, it is the grace and sincerity with which he delivered those words that are remembered by the people of Guam.

The outpouring of love and affection President Reagan has received from family, friends and the entire American family is a testament to his life and all of those he touched. Through courage, clarity and compassion, he led the people of this great nation and the entire world from the perils of the Cold War to the hope of liberty, freedom and dignity. His spirit will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all of us for whom he dedicated his life of public service. The advent of freedom in the former Soviet Bloc and the spread of democracy throughout the world will forever be linked to his famous challenge, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" On behalf of myself and the people of Guam, I want to say "Adios, esta ki." Goodbye until we meet again.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans and people across the world respect and

admire Ronald Reagan. My greatest admiration is for his steadfast opposition to communist threats to our national security and the security of our allies.

Many credit Ronald Reagan for winning the Cold War, a bipartisan war begun under President Truman and lasting forty-five years under bipartisan U.S. governments. When President Reagan spoke out against the evils of communism, as he often did, he spoke out for all Americans: Republican, Democratic, and Independent.

In this long running struggle, President Reagan excelled by working with America's strong belief in freedom and our patriotic love for our country.

He was instrumental in keeping the nation united against the threat that Soviet communism posed to our national security, an important and difficult task after the domestic and foreign policy conflicts of the 1960s and 1970s.

President Reagan's ability to lead a united America, during eight years of bipartisan government is conclusive proof that he was a natural leader who knew to treat all Americans with dignity and respect. The sincerity of his patriotism and his beliefs were crucial for uniting America against the threats of communism. Any American leader could learn from him.

Reagan was also inspiring for an America hit by tragedy. His underlying faith in America and Americans shone through in a powerful speech after the *Challenger* tragedy.

He made it clear, when directly addressing the millions of American schoolchildren who had watched the disaster, that tragedy was a painful setback, but was no reversal. The President said on January 28, 1986: "The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The *Challenger* crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them." That also applies today.

By bringing America to common terms during international tyranny and national tragedy reinforced the strong, shared goals of the American people: to live in freedom, to excel in technology, and the belief in something larger than ourselves.

Today we mourn the passing of an American giant.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marked the passing of one of the most influential Presidents of our era. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy, and his children at this difficult time.

President Reagan was an American icon. No matter what your politics, he had a special way of making every citizen feel good about their country. He made us proud to be Americans. He will be forever remembered for his warmth and the respect he accorded others.

Even when he disagreed with those who did not share his political philosophy, President Reagan lived by the noble ideal that at the end of the day, partisanship ended and we are all fellow Americans and friends. He taught us that there is a big difference between strong beliefs and bitter partisanship.

President Reagan is credited with many great accomplishments, not the least of which is ending the Cold War. In spite of all he achieved, he once said that the greatest leader is not the one who does great things—it is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things. Ronald Reagan's glass was always half full. His optimism, his patriotism and his

sense of duty inspired several generations of Americans to do great things.

In life, President Reagan enjoyed the affection of a grateful nation. We all join together to mourn the passing of this great American.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States. I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congressman LEWIS' resolution. Today, Republicans and Democrats alike honor in unity the life of a man who left a permanent mark on the history of our nation and the world.

Today we praise the life and accomplishments of the Great Communicator, and we give our condolences to Nancy, and the entire Reagan family. President Ronald Reagan was a man who meant much to all free peoples in the world through his many noble accomplishments. President Reagan's policies, many of which I disagreed with, were nevertheless motivated by a commitment to preserve and enhance our nation's greatness. I remain firm in my admiration of this great leader whose intellectual integrity was always unquestioned.

As the oldest serving president in American history, President Reagan was an inspiration for seniors. He showed us that youthfulness can be found in people of all ages, and that life does not expire at 65. When President Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, he brought awareness and understanding to an illness that is too often ignored.

President Reagan will be remembered for his dedication to the American dream. Although many Americans may have disagreed with his policies, they were still inspired by his enthusiasm and optimism.

President Reagan should be remembered not just for his role in Washington, but for his hard work in the State of California as well. As Governor of California for eight years, he led the state with dedication and commitment to his convictions. As an actor, he provided us with entertainment in over 50 motion pictures.

On behalf of myself, the residents of the 43rd Congressional District in California, and a grateful world that is safer and freer, I pay homage to President Ronald Reagan—leader, statesman, actor, father, husband and American hero.

And now, let's make this resolution "one for the Gipper."

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who I believe to be the greatest President of the 20th Century.

President Ronald Reagan succeeded in defeating the most powerful and dangerous military empire in the history of humanity, without firing a single shot. Reagan knew instinctively that, despite the imperfections inherent in every human enterprise, the United States of America represents good and communism represents evil.

President Reagan never wavered in his conviction that freedom is the birthright of all mankind. His firm belief that freedom is the inalienable right of all people changed the world, and is his most enduring legacy. However he also realized the liberties we hold sacred must be constantly protected against the forces of tyranny and oppression. President Reagan proved that when one fights for justice, for human rights, and for the liberty of those suffering under repression, one must persevere in spite of the strength of the opposition and the apparent magnitude of the obstacles one must confront.

The enemies of the United States never forgave him for his firmness, for his character, for his faith in the people of the United States and in the cause of liberty. Even in his death they continue to attack him. This hatred is evidenced by the declaration made by the tyrannical regime in Havana yesterday, "He, who never should have been born, has died." That monstrous statement illustrates the ultimate evil of the tyrant who has enslaved the Cuban people for over 45 years. President Reagan knew that Castro, and every Communist tyranny, represents the antithesis of liberty, freedom and human dignity.

At home, Ronald Reagan forever changed the political landscape of America. He was a union leader. In fact, he was the only president in the history of the United States to have been a union leader. He was also at first a member of the Democratic Party, having campaigned for Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. However, ideas and times change. When he became a Republican at the age of 52, he convinced millions of members of his former party that the superior ideas and the better reforms of our age belonged to the Republican Party. Inspired by his leadership and his example, my brother, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART and I proudly became Republicans.

May Ronald Wilson Reagan, apostle of freedom, democracy and human rights, rest in peace.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, on this second week of June, 17 years ago, President Ronald Reagan stood in the then divided city of Berlin, and called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to, "tear down this wall." President Reagan's critics at home called his speech a publicity ploy. The Soviets and East Germans called it an infringement of East German sovereignty—unwarranted meddling by the American President. Two years later, the wall came down.

President Reagan was a leader with foresight and strong conviction. He believed in America—then he made America believe in itself again. He valued freedom—so he brought it to those who had none.

Through wise policies, force of will, and a kind demeanor, President Reagan conveyed strength and determination alongside reason and optimism to America and those who yearned for freedom behind the Iron Curtain. He never doubted what America could do—and he wouldn't let us doubt ourselves. When tragedy struck, he told us to move forward—and we listened.

Ronald Reagan knew America. He knew what was right about our Nation, what was right for our Nation, and what America could set right in the world. Ronald Reagan led America and the rest of the free world against communism. When his work was finished, the free world had expanded by over 400 million people in 27 countries.

Today, soldiers from these new democracies fight side by side with Americans against the new enemies of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. President Reagan showed us that freedom can tear down walls. He reaffirmed for us that America is a force for good in the world, and that our proudest achievements will never come without criticism or sacrifice.

I never had the opportunity to meet Ronald Reagan, but knew him, like most Americans, as someone who had faith in our ability to

achieve great things for ourselves and the world.

Mr. Speaker, history will remember Ronald Reagan for bringing freedom to more people throughout the world than has ever been done before. The America and the world Ronald Reagan leaves behind is a better place because of him.

President Reagan, we still carry the confidence you gave our Nation and will never forget what we accomplished together. A grateful Nation thanks you.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of President Ronald Reagan.

Ronald Reagan leaves an enduring legacy of character and a dedication to the American ideal of liberty. His philosophy and values were not political calculation; they were inscribed in his heart.

I recognize Ronald Reagan as a true leader that remained true to American principles of the individual over government, sense of duty toward neighbors, and expansion of freedom.

Moreover, Reagan was a man with vision on a grand scale. He knew America's greatest achievement was spreading democracy throughout the world. He was resolute in this endeavor and faced each challenge with both vigilance and grace. No American did more to spread the gift of liberty and respect for human dignity to people who had never enjoyed them. No American did more to persuade our Nation that the contribution of democracy and human rights to all is the proper goal of the United States.

Throughout our history, when evil and iniquity has been the common enemy, Americans have displayed a resolve to create a better country and a better world. Ronald Reagan personified that American trait. Reagan's service is considered recent in history's timeline, but his character and deeds are a model of leadership for all time. We need to remember in our hearts the dedication to higher purpose. We are duty-bound to advance each society to Ronald Reagan's shining city on the hill.

Thank you Mr. Speaker. I conclude by saying that this week's passing should not be seen as the loss of a man but rather the beginning of a legend.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus extolling the life of Ronald Reagan. On a similar occasion over a century ago, Lincoln said of Washington, "How do you add glory to the sun?" And I must confess, I feel same futility at trying to add my few words to a life and legacy that shines so bright.

Ronald Reagan came to the stage when it appeared that America was grasping at the complexities of modernity. Inflation, recession, and unemployment appeared permanent and the light of freedom appeared to be dim. Europe was enthralled with socialism and communism and the American exception was denounced as arrogant and on the edge of failure. Much like today, we were told what we needed was more government not less; higher taxation, not less; more regulation, not less. Reagan saw all of this and he smiled.

I was at his inauguration. When he said "It is time for us to realize that we're too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams," my spine stiffened. I got goose bumps when he called out "that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it; we will not surrender for it, now or ever."

From that day, I knew America was back. You see many people speak of the Reagan Revolution, I like to think of it as the Reagan restoration. Reagan restored our optimism, our belief in our ability to create, and the belief that God put man on this earth to be free and made America to prove it.

I was in Washington the day Reagan was shot. I held my breath and was glued to the TV. The humor, strength and courage that were Reagan's came through and, along with the rest of America, I laughed when he said "honey, I forgot to duck."

Ronald Reagan changed the paradigm. He changed America's foreign policy from one of benign containment to active confrontation and for the first time since communism began extending its sinister reach, we saw its hand pushed back, and that gave us hope.

Reagan confronted the evil he saw in the world and he did it without apology. He battled communism. He armed the resistance in Afghanistan; he sent troops to Grenada; Lebanon; and Pershings to Europe. In a courageous move he walked away from negotiations at Reykjavik. To the cries of the left and chattering classes he held firm to the belief that America never should and never would surrender her right to defend herself. Mikhail Gorbachev has said Reykjavik was the turning point. His strength broke the back of the Soviets.

Before the British Parliament, Reagan envisaged that the last pages of communism were being written and in those famous words predicted that totalitarianism would be consigned to the "ash heap of history." He was derided. Yet few could know how prophetic his words would be, or how fast the fall would come.

In 1989, Soviet citizens voted for the first time. Pro-democracy demonstrations were held in Tiananmen Square. Lech Walesa was elected president of Poland. Shortly thereafter, the Eastern European Soviet Bloc closed the door on communism for democracy. In November, the Berlin Wall was opened and, as Reagan would have it, an anonymous German struck the first blow at tearing down wall. The following year, in free elections defeated the communist Sandinistas and the Soviet Union was dissolved. The light of freedom extended its reach.

Reagan has been so often called the Great Communicator, but I like to think about his time in office and his legacy in a different way. His victory was not of communication, but a triumph of content—the content of his ideas. He reigned the light of freedom. He cut taxes and regulation and in 8 years created 19 million jobs. He reminded us that the path to prosperity was one of individual freedom and personal responsibility. As Reagan has said, these were not his ideas, but they were American ideas. Reagan thought his revolution was "more like the great rediscovery, a rediscovery of our values and our common sense."

So, as we honor President Reagan let us remember his humility, his dignity, his kind words and most of all his courage. Let us honor the legacy of President Reagan with a renewed commitment to the exceptionalism that makes us American. Let us renew freedom's promise to those who live in oppressive tyranny. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope.

There are many who stand against freedom and peace. There are many who criticize and

compromise, but let us honor Ronald Reagan by standing firm, with resolve, in this time of war.

We can do it. Why? As Reagan would say, "After all, we are Americans."

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I share with my colleagues a poem by Albert Carey Caswell.

AND TO THIS END

And to this end  
Approach Heaven, our True American Hero  
... America's finest of all true friends  
Rest now ... our Great American Patriot  
... as up to Heaven your magnificent  
soul as so ascends.

And to this end  
And oh, what to this our Country you have  
so been  
With that, your warm smile and that thick  
brown hair ... and what your heart of  
gold has so meant.

And to this end  
The promise, and your gift ... the pride and  
the respect ... believing in us as if  
... as you'd begin  
Bringing your Nation back to shore, our savior  
... rescuing & seeing the light that  
others so ignored.

And to this end  
Breaking down walls, hearing the children's  
calls ... wearing your heart on your  
sleeve  
To believe ... In God and Country, and in  
all of those things which made us free  
... all in you we see.

And to this end  
To dream ... to start from nothing, as it  
would so seem  
As was yours ... this The Great American  
Dream ... as is this, our Nation's  
greatest of all themes.

And to this end  
Returning and The Pride and The Respect  
... to America's greatest of all assets  
Her fighting Women & Men ... her one true  
fine reason why we all can dream,  
you'd not let us forget.

And to this end  
As you brought the light, into that battle  
against the darkness ... this your  
courageous fight  
As you have brought us hope, where there  
was none ... as your journey begun  
... for what was right.

And to this end  
Yes, Ron ... there are jelly beans up in  
Heaven my dear friend  
And to you, I so salute ... this one's for you  
Gipper ... as the swollen tear drops so  
roll down my chin.

And to this end ... "Well, There You Go  
Again"  
And now, and forever ... whenever, I look  
into our flag ... I'll see your face  
For such men of heart, such men of warmth  
& character & grace, Heaven ... so  
surely holds a place.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, people say that a truly great athlete is not only gifted himself, he makes those who play with him better. The same is true of President Reagan, who not only led the country, but restored America's confidence. He renewed our sense of America's goodness and America's greatness. And with that assurance, the American people achieved great things.

When Reagan came into office, America was demoralized. President Carter had even spoken of our "malaise." Watergate and our defeat in Vietnam shook our self-confidence. We surrendered control over the Panama Canal which we had built.

The Soviet Union was at the height of its power and communism seemed to be on the march. After Vietnam fell to the communists, Cambodia followed. The Sandinistas took control in Nicaragua and communist insurgencies were under way in Ethiopia, Angola, and Mozambique. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and were in the process of suppressing the Solidarity movement in Poland.

At the same time, the Shah fell in Iran, and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini held 52 Americans hostage for more than a year at our embassy in Tehran. Worse, the American military expedition to free them failed in the desert, with the crash of two helicopters and the death of eight servicemen.

The economic situation was just as dire. In 1980, inflation stood at 13.5 percent, and interest rates reached 21 percent. The turmoil in the Middle East sparked gasoline shortages. People waited for hours in line just to fill up their cars and worried about people stealing the gas out of their cars.

People lost their optimism. America no longer seemed special, or a world leader. It felt like the divine spark at the center of the American experiment had gone out.

It was Ronald Reagan who turned it around. He never lost faith in the American people. And he had enough optimism to restore our lost confidence and get America back on its feet.

He believed we could restore our economy—and we did. By 1990 the U.S. economy had grown by a third, or roughly the size of the entire German economy. And 35 million jobs were created.

He believed we could stand up proudly for American values around the world and stand up to the Soviet Union—and we did. It was President Reagan's resolve that halted the march of communism in Central America, and in Afghanistan. It was Reagan's resolve that nurtured the Solidarity movement in Poland, and gave heart to the dissidents of the Soviet bloc. Ultimately it was President Reagan's faith in American ideals that led to the fall of the Berlin wall and the liberation of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

It was that leadership and vision for America that made Ronald Reagan special. Like FDR during the depression, he taught us that there was nothing to fear but fear itself. Like Winston Churchill during World War II, he spoke for an entire nation at a time of stress. It restored our confidence, and that made all the difference.

Let us remember Ronald Reagan. Let us remember what Ronald Reagan wanted for America. He wanted us always to be that shining city on a hill. And he wanted us to know that America's best days always lie ahead.

May God bless Ronald Reagan and Mrs. Reagan and may God bless America.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I join today with others in the House in expressing deepest condolences to Nancy Reagan and the Reagan family on the passing of Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States of America, and in paying tribute to President Reagan as we remember his presidency and what he meant to our country and indeed to the world.

I deeply admired and respected President Reagan. I had the good fortune to run for the 10th District of Virginia seat in Congress in November 1980 when he was elected to his first term. Some called my victory then "on

Reagan's coattails." I have no doubt I'm in Congress today because of him.

I will always be grateful that after my two unsuccessful bids for Congress, Ronald Reagan led the ticket that I was on and I became a member of the Class of 1980.

As we remember President Reagan today, I have been moved by the outpouring of love and support we have been seeing over the past few days across our Nation and especially in California, where he served the Golden State as governor for two terms.

"Thank you, President Reagan. You made us proud again."

That was the sentiment on one of the many posters and other mementos in memory of President Reagan placed outside the entrance to his presidential library in Simi Valley, California, the day after his death on June 5. And that sentiment could well sum up the legacy of President Reagan, who lost his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease at age 93.

He was the leader of our Nation when Americans needed to know and more importantly to believe that indeed it was "morning again in America," and the best was yet to come for our great country—that we could be proud to stand up and be called an American. He made us feel good again. He gave us hope. He inspired us. He gave us optimism because he was an optimist.

And when we needed to be comforted at a time of our own Nation's mourning in the wake of the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster in 1986, he was there for us, speaking to us much like a father, telling us it would be all right: "It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. . . . Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue."

The June 7 edition of National Journal's Hotline headlined, "Ronald Wilson Reagan," described Mr. Reagan's presidency well:

The optimism of Morning in America left little room for mourning in America. So instead of grief, there is respect for the man, celebration of his boldness, relief for his widow, and memories of leadership with purpose, grace and humor.

He literally disarmed his enemies aboard with his tenacity. He gently disarmed his political enemies at home with his modesty. If he was overestimated as an actor, he was underestimated as a political leader. Because he never quite fit in with official Washington, he stayed connected inseparably with the people. And for an entire generation of Americans, he defined the Presidency.

He dreamt, acted out, and embodied the American dream. He was a leader. Those who agreed with his policies cherished his principles. Those who doubted his capacities wondered at his accomplishments.

Friend and foe have come to see him as an American icon, whose light may forever shine from his city on the hill.

In many ways, President Reagan's profound conviction that every human being had the right to live in freedom inspired my work for humanitarian and human rights causes. While he didn't always outwardly show it, he was a man of deep faith. He said in a speech before the House of Commons in 1982: "We must be staunch in our conviction that freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few, but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings."

I saw a poignant television news report from southern California on Sunday evening which

also reminded me that another crucial part of his legacy belongs not only to America, but to the world. A woman was interviewed. She was holding a bouquet of flowers. Tears were streaming down her face.

She had a broken English accent and identified herself as a Russian emigrant. She said she had to come to the makeshift memorial outside the funeral home where President Reagan was resting because, "I owe my life to President Reagan."

I was also reminded of how President Reagan gave hope to the persecuted peoples of the world when I read an opinion article from the June 6 edition of The Jerusalem Post written by former Soviet political dissident Natan Sharansky. I will insert the entire text of that article for the RECORD. Mr. Sharansky wrote:

In 1983, I was confined to an eight-by-ten foot prison cell on the border of Siberia. My Soviet jailers gave me the privilege of reading the latest copy of Pravda. Splashed across the front page was a condemnation of President Ronald Reagan for having the temerity to call the Soviet Union an "evil empire."

Tapping on walls and talking through toilets, word of Reagan's "provocation" quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the free world had spoken the truth—a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

Who will ever forget Ronald Reagan calling the Soviet Union "an evil empire" and his challenge to then-Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev outside the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

And who would ever have imagined the relationship President Reagan forged with Mr. Gorbachev which ultimately led to the fall of communism and indeed, the tearing down of the Berlin wall. Mikhail Gorbachev will honor that legacy of President Reagan by his attendance at Mr. Reagan's funeral service at the National Cathedral in Washington on Friday, June 11.

Ronald Reagan was a remarkable man and I believe will be remembered by history as one of the greatest presidents of our Nation. I will close by sharing his own words spoken in August 1992 about how he wanted to be remembered:

Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your doubts, and may all of you as Americans never forget your heroic origins, never fail to seek divine guidance, and never, never lose your God-given optimism.

We thank God for the life of Ronald Wilson Reagan.

Republican Members who were elected in 1980 on the ticket with President Reagan:

Wendell Bailey, Missouri; Cleve Benedict, West Virginia; Tom Bliley, Virginia; Hank Brown, Colorado; Greg Carman, New York; Gene Chappie, California; Dan Coats, Indiana; Jim Coyne, Pennsylvania; Larry Craig, Idaho; Hal Daub, Nebraska; Larry DeNardis, Connecticut; David Dreier, California; Jim Dunn, Michigan; Bill Emerson, Missouri; T. Cooper Evans, Iowa; Bobbi Fiedler, California; Jack Fields, Texas; Steve Gunderson, Wisconsin; and Judd Gregg, New Hampshire.

James Hansen, Utah; Tommy Hartnett, South Carolina; Bill Hendon, North Carolina; John (Jack) Hiler, Indiana; Duncan Hunter, California; Gene Johnston, North Carolina;

John LeBoutillier, New York; Bill Lowery, California; Bill McCollum, Florida; Bob McEwen, Ohio; Ray McGrath, New York; David Martin, New York; Lynn Martin, Illinois; Guy Molinari, New York; Sid Morrison, Washington; John Napier, South Carolina; and Jim Nelligan, Pennsylvania.

Mike Oxley, Ohio; Stan Parris, Virginia; Clint Roberts, South Dakota; Pat Roberts, Kansas; Hal Rogers, Kentucky; Marge Roukema, New Jersey; Claudine Schneider, Rhode Island; Clay Shaw, Florida; Mark Siljander, Michigan; Joe Skeen, New Mexico; Albert Lee Smith, Alabama; Chris Smith, New Jersey; Denny Smith, Oregon; David (Mick) Staton, West Virginia; Ed Weber, Ohio; Vin Weber, Minnesota; Frank Wolf, Virginia; and George Wortley, New York.

[From the Jerusalem Post, June 6, 2004]

THE PRISONERS' CONSCIENCE

(By Natan Sharansky)

In 1983, I was confined to an eight-by-ten-foot prison cell on the border of Siberia. My Soviet jailers gave me the privilege of reading the latest copy of Pravda. Splashed across the front page was a condemnation of President Ronald Reagan for having the temerity to call the Soviet Union an "evil empire." Tapping on walls and talking through toilets, word of Reagan's "provocation" quickly spread throughout the prison. We dissidents were ecstatic. Finally, the leader of the free world had spoken the truth—a truth that burned inside the heart of each and every one of us.

At the time, I never imagined that three years later, I would be in the White House telling this story to the president. When he summoned some of his staff to hear what I had said, I understood that there had been much criticism of Reagan's decision to cast the struggle between the superpowers as a battle between good and evil.

Well, Reagan was right and his critics were wrong.

Those same critics used to love calling Reagan a simpleton who saw the world through a primitive ideological prism and who would convey his ideas through jokes and anecdotes. In our first meeting, he told me that Soviet premier Brezhnev and Kosygin, his second-in-command, were discussing whether they should allow freedom of emigration. "Look, America's really pressuring us," Brezhnev said, "maybe we should just open up the gates. The problem is, we might be the only two people who wouldn't leave." To which Kosygin replied, "Speak for yourself."

What his critics didn't seem to understand was that the jokes and anecdotes that so endeared Reagan to people were merely his way of expressing fundamental truths in a way that everyone could understand.

Reagan's tendency to confuse names and dates, something I, too, experienced firsthand, also made him the target of ridicule. In September 1987, a few months before a summit meeting with Gorbachev in Washington, I met with Reagan to ask him what he thought about the idea of holding a massive rally of hundreds of thousands of people on behalf of Soviet Jewry during the summit. Some Jewish leaders, concerned that if the rally were held Jews would be accused of undermining a renewed hope for peace between the superpowers, had expressed reservations about such a frontal challenge to the Soviet premier.

Seeing me together for the first time with my wife Avital, who had fought for many years for my release, Reagan greeted us like a proud grandparent, knowing he had played an important role in securing my freedom. He told us about his commitment to Soviet Jewry. "My dear Mr. and Mrs. Shevard-

nadze," he said, "I just spoke with Soviet Foreign Minister Sharansky, and I said you better let those Jews go."

Not wanting to embarrass the president over his mistake, I quickly asked him about the rally, outlining the concerns raised by some of my colleagues. His response was immediate: "Do you think I am interested in a friendship with the Soviets if they continue to keep their people in prison? You do what you believe is right."

Reagan may have confused names and dates, but his moral compass was always good. Today's leaders, in contrast, may know their facts and figures, but are often woefully confused about what should be the simplest distinctions between freedom and tyranny, democrats and terrorists.

The legacy of president Reagan will surely endure. Armed with moral clarity, a deep faith in freedom, and the courage to follow his convictions, he was instrumental in helping the West win the Cold War and hundreds of millions of people behind the Iron Curtain win their freedom.

As one of those people, I can only express my deepest gratitude to this great leader. Believe me, I will take moral clarity and Shevardnadze any day.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former President Ronald Reagan who passed away on Saturday June 5, 2004. At this time, I extend my deepest condolences to his loving wife, Nancy, and his children, and I join with our Nation in mourning the loss of a great leader.

Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in Tampico, Illinois to Nelle Wilson and John Edward "Jack" Reagan. In 1928, Ronald Reagan graduated from Dixon High School where he served as student body president. From 1928–1932, Reagan attended Eureka College, a small liberal arts institution in Illinois. He majored in economics and sociology.

In 1937, Reagan enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Private and was soon promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps of the Cavalry. While in the Army, an agent for Warner Brothers discovered Ronald Reagan. In 1940, Reagan wed Jane Wyman.

In 1942, the Army Air Force called Reagan to active duty. He was assigned to the 1st Motion Picture Unit in Culver City, California where he made over 400 training films. Reagan was discharged from the Army in 1945 at the rank of Captain.

After the war, Reagan resumed his acting career and in 1952 wed Nancy Davis. In 1956, Reagan campaigned as a Democrat for Eisenhower. In 1960, he campaigned for Richard Nixon. In 1962, he officially changed his party registration to Republican.

In 1966, Reagan was elected Governor of California and was re-elected in 1970. On November 4, 1980, Ronald Reagan Wilson became the 40th President of the United States.

Ronald Reagan wished to be remembered as the President who wanted Americans to believe in themselves. We will remember him for much more.

We will remember Ronald Reagan as a political leader who worked diligently to stimulate economic growth, increase employment and strengthen national defense. He was "The Great Communicator" whose words and actions spoke of honor and peace.

Through his convictions, we witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War. "Peace through strength" is what he sought and achieved.

In his own words taken from 1986 as he sought to comfort us after the *Challenger* Dis-

aster, "We will never forget [him], nor the last time we saw [him] . . . as he prepared for [his] journey, and waved good-bye, and 'slipped the surly bonds of earth' to 'touch the face of God.'"

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROHRBACHER) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable EDWARD L. SCHROCK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

June 3, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

EDWARD L. SCHROCK,  
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. LAMPSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MENENDEZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical reasons.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business in the district.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. TURNER of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 9 on account of a funeral in the district.

Mr. KING of New York (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being detained on official business.